

JAHANGIR'S

VOL 13 ISSUE VII APRIL '20

WORLD TIMES

- US-Taliban Peace Deal
- Organized Violence in Delhi
- Trump's Deal of the Century
- Emerging Great Power Competition
- Water Disputes with India and Afghanistan

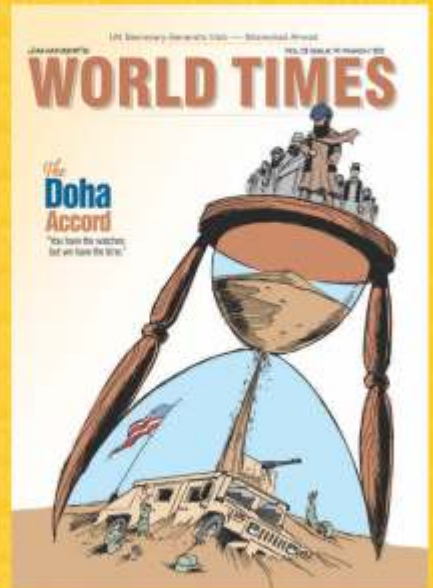
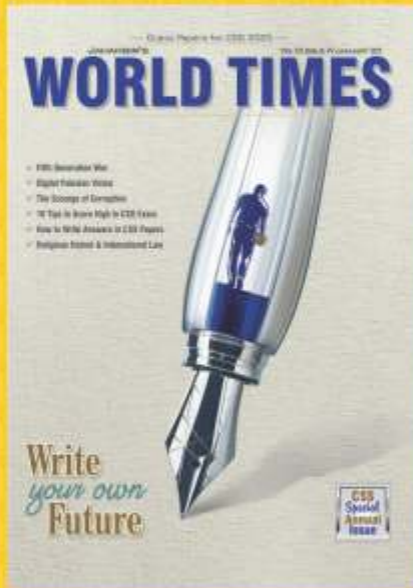
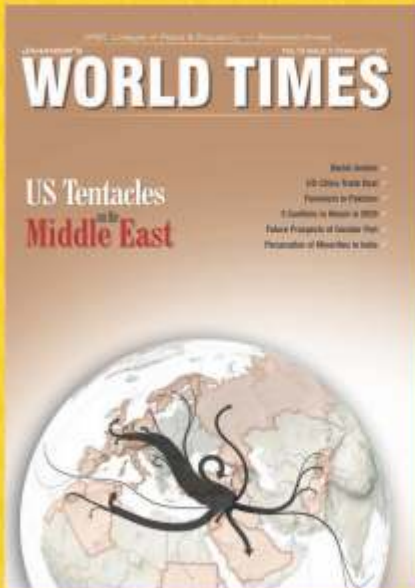
corona
virus

Pandemic vs the World

urdukutabkhanapk.blogspot



Best Magazine for Researchers, Teachers,
Students and Aspirants of All Competitive Exams



Monthly Magazine
Jahangir's World Times
Urdu & English



0302-5556802

SUBSCRIBE NOW

WWW.JWORLDTIMES.COM

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JWORLDTIMES



Coronavirus Hits Pakistan Hard

The pandemic of Coronavirus has brought the world to a standstill. Countries across the globe have closed their borders so as to avoid the spread of the killer virus that has already taken thousands of lives and leaving hundreds of thousands of people affected. Pakistan, too, has been badly affected, fortunately not on the magnitude most other countries have been, though. But, for a developing country like ours, implications will be grave. Since most cities have been under a partial lockdown as schools, educational institutions, shopping malls and other usually crowded public places have been shut across the country, the country's economy, which was scraping through the crisis, will be the main victim. Almost all economic activities have come to a halt and people, who were already reeling under grinding poverty, will once again face testing times. In the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak, Pakistan's initial economic losses in different sectors of the country's economy have been estimated at Rs1.3 trillion. These losses are going to be incurred on account of drop in the GDP growth because of reduction in services sector, including airline business and others, FBR's revenue loss, massive decline in imports, exports, reduction in remittances, disruption in food supplies and other fronts. Moreover, it is becoming increasingly clear that the pandemic will take a heavy toll on employment and poverty trends.

It is no surprise that the ones to suffer first, and the most, are the lowest income groups. Still, the first quantifiable estimates that are now coming out make for some grim reading and should give policymakers much to think about. According to a report, not only can the ongoing slowdown almost double the country's poverty rate, from 23.4 percent to 44.2 percent, it can also put more than 12 million people out of work, which is approximately 20 percent of the total employed population. Even more importantly, it will most likely add 46.3 percent of the country's vulnerable workforce – defined as self-employed workers and contributing family workers, who are not very likely to have formal work – to the ranks of the unemployed as well. Since Pakistan has a very high percentage of vulnerable employment, 41.6 percent according to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) figures of 2018, the expected poverty bulge becomes that much easier to understand. Going by the report, the biggest vulnerable employment layoffs will come in the transport and communication (90.26 percent) and hotels and restaurants (90.00 percent) sectors. Similarly, wholesale and retail trade should expect 70.11 percent and manufacturing sector 69.91 percent of its vulnerable workers to face the axe sooner rather than later. And so the list goes on.

Given that businesses and government alike didn't fully understand the kind of economic compromises that the lockdown would demand, and there's still no way of knowing just how long proper economic activity cannot resume, these figures can be taken as careful estimates at best. But they do give a pretty clear idea of the magnitude of the problem.

In this time of crisis, the government came up with a 1.13 trillion rupee package. The package focusing on the general public includes 200 billion rupees for labour with negotiations ongoing with the provinces to provide additional support. This can be fully endorsed as the large number of unskilled daily wage earners would be the hardest hit if the lockdown prolongs. So, the government must immediately work on an action plan to help the sectors that are most at risk; so their vulnerable workforce can be protected before it finds itself on the streets with no income. It is unlikely, given the size of the economy, that the government can make direct transfers of the huge sums of money that businesses need to avoid a liquidity crunch in the immediate term. So it will have to adopt a calculated and phased approach.

Whenever it is feasible to relax the lockdown, it will be important to stagger it in stages. Right now, only industry related to essential services is allowed to function. Next, export industry should also be allowed to resume operations along with allied industry that feeds the export sector. But it should be done in a staggered manner. Suddenly giving the green light after a cabinet meeting one fine day will not do the job. The government will have to make a priority list, for which it will have to hold discussions with all stakeholders and gather input from experts. It will also have to make sure that the more important industries, food and pharmaceuticals, for example, are given a higher position on the list than others. And it must do all it can to time the relaxation as perfectly as possible.

So, the government must formulate an all-inclusive policy to cope with the aftermath of the lockdown. Business as usual will not work and dealing with this pandemic will require "every ounce of creative energy and close coordination. For Pakistan, this means that both domestic and external institutions must extract every ounce of boldness and creativity to rescue and re-stabilize the country's economy. Needless to say, of course, that if the spread is not controlled the economy will almost certainly collapse, and no manner of stimulus or intervention will get it back on its feet.

Adeel Niaz
adeelniaz78@gmail.com

CONTENTS

GENERAL

Editorial	3
Contents	4
Infections of the 21st Century	6
Global Arms Trade	10
Convalescent plasma treatment	36
Why Political Knowledge Matters	55

INTERNATIONAL

Coronavirus and Global Economy	11
US-Taliban Peace Deal	14
Trump's Deal of the Century	17
EU and the Emerging Great Power Competition	20
Organized Violence in Delhi 2020	23
The Coming Refugee Crisis	27
China's Coronavirus Lockdown Strategy	30
The ICC's Probe into Atrocities in Afghanistan	33

JAHANGIR'S

WorldTimes MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Member APNS & ABC Certified

NATIONAL

Pakistan-Turkey Partnership and the Muslim World	7
Criminal Law and the Punjab Sentencing Act, 2019	37
Water Disputes with India and Afghanistan	39
Four Cardinal Principles for Pakistan's Water Diplomacy	43
5G in Pakistan	44
Lousy Portrait of Aurat March	47
Introducing Tax Measures for Efficient and Equitable Tax System	49
Turning the Local Global	51

EXAM PACK

Essay Outlines	56
Smart Tips for CSS Exam	60
US-Taliban Deal and the Future of Afghanistan	62
Simple and Compound Interest	65
CSS Interview Ali Hassan (PCS) - 57th in Pakistan, CSS 2018-19	66
PMS Interview Babar Ali Rai - 16th in Punjab, PMS 2019-20	68
Behavioural Change and Civil Service	70
Of Coronaphobia and the Myths	71
Peace Deal between Taliban and USA	74
Sociological Background of Regionalism	76
The Coronavirus Pandemic	79
Cardinal Rules of Life	81
Book Review 7 Habits of Highly Effective People	83
From Third World to the First	86
WIF	88

Infections of the 21st Century

The current COVID-19 pandemic is due to one of many subtypes of coronavirus that cause both the common cold and more serious diseases. Since the 21st century began, this is at least its third epidemic after Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)

Infections Outbreaks in 1998-2020



Emergence and spreading



Fatality Rate, %



Deaths



Affected Countries

Nipah Virus

1998-1999
2001-2008



Malaysia, South Asia



40-75

398

4

Causes encephalitis (brain inflammation), atypical pneumonia. Symptoms include fever, vomiting, headaches and muscle aches, sore throats, and neurological signs

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

2002-2004



China, Vietnam, world



6-15

800

29

A form of atypical pneumonia caused by the SARS-CoV coronavirus, destroys pulmonary alveoli cells. Symptoms include fever, chills, muscle aches, general malaise, and dry cough. Unlike colds and flu, not accompanied by a runny nose

"Avian Influenza" (H5N1)

2003



Hong Kong



60

455

17

A form of influenza, affects digestive and respiratory organs. Originally, it was distributing among birds, particularly threatening migratory and domestic species. In 1997 - first human record

"Swine Influenza" (H1N1)

2009-2010



Mexico, the US, world



0.08

18,000

214

Only 18 thousand deaths were laboratory-confirmed, but the exact number of victims is unknown and can reach hundreds of thousands

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)

2012 - to date



Saudi Arabia, Republic of Korea



60

>920

27

Caused by MERS-CoV coronavirus. Symptoms include fever, coughing and dyspnea

Zika Virus

2013-2014
2015-2016



Asia-Pacific, South and Central America



68

68

Accompanied by a rash, headache and joint pain. The virus is sexually transmitted and affects the offspring, causing pathologies in the fetus, including microcephaly

Ebola Virus

2014-2016
2018-2019



Africa



50

13,500

15

Symptoms overlap with the influenza and include vomiting, diarrhea, and external or internal bleeding. Death occurs mainly from low blood pressure and dehydration

COVID-19

2019 - to date



China, world



2-4

4,000

115

Symptoms include fever, fatigue, dry cough, pain, a runny nose or pharyngitis. The danger of the virus is that the disease can proceed without symptoms, which makes diagnostics difficult. On March 11, 2020 it was officially declared a pandemic

Reproduction Number

number of people infected by each infected person



Influenza, Ebola, Zika



COVID-19 Coronavirus



Chickenpox, Smallpox, Polio, Measles

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's recent visit to Pakistan came at a testing time for both countries, and manifested truly the special nature of their fraternal relationship. Pakistan-Turkey ties are rooted in their history and culture going back to the centuries of Muslim rule in India, but a unique emotional dimension of this relationship goes back almost a century ago when, in the 1920s, the Muslims living in India and in areas that later became Pakistan launched Khilafat Movement in support of the Ottoman Empire. The Khilafat Movement was also a factor contributing to the ideological rationale for the creation of an independent state in Subcontinent's regions where Muslims constituted a majority.



Pakistan-Turkey Partnership and the Muslim World



Turkey and Pakistan both have been part of a number of regional blocs during the Cold War and even today are bound together in a multidimensional close and cooperative relationship with common political, economic and strategic interests. Geographically, they may be two different countries, but their hearts beat together, sharing as they do deep affinities of history, religion and culture. What is even more important in today's context is the globally important unique location that both Turkey and Pakistan enjoy at the confluence

of some of the most important regions of the world. These include the poverty-and-tension-ridden South Asia, conflict-afflicted West Asia, resource-rich, strategically-located Central Asia, economically-pulsating East Asia, stormy and violent Middle East and the oil-rich Persian Gulf. Both Turkey and Pakistan are virtual transcontinental bridges, linking as they do at their respective ends the continents of Europe and Asia. With their unique geopolitical location and enormous material and human resources, they have a key role to play, charted for them by their geography as major factors of peace

and stability in their respective regions. Linked to their geopolitical importance, both have shared understanding on regional and global affairs. Both countries are part of restive yet dynamic neighbourhoods, with powerful neighbours and ongoing conflicts threatening to spill, and in some cases spilling, into their borders. Both countries have also had to deal with attempts by other powers to contain their influence, a seemingly natural by-product of their geographical significance. Both have had a colonial power behind a simmering territorial dispute that has become a part of their respective

NATIONAL

national psyches. Additionally, both have also had to grapple with their identities as Muslim countries in the context of their own cultural perspectives.

These shared features of their history and geography are a part of, if not the reason behind, the many lessons learned for both countries. No wonder, President Erdoğan's latest visit to Pakistan provided them an opportunity to go over

determination for the people of Indian-Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. Pakistan stands by Turkey on the question of Cyprus.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Erdoğan, Pakistan-Turkey relations have further fortified into an enduring partnership. They are determined to translate their historic amity into vibrant cooperation in diverse fields,

broadening of the Pakistan-Turkey strategic partnership. Both sides used this opportunity to place special emphasis on forging a robust economic relationship. Besides agreeing on a strategic economic framework with vast scope for cooperation, the two countries signed thirteen agreements, opening fresh avenues of cooperation in many areas of mutual interest



those lessons and explore how they could, together, play a role as leading players in the Muslim world. They already have a unique and abiding relationship characterized by mutual support and exceptional trust and understanding. The two brotherly countries have always been each other's steadfast partners. Turkey supports the cause of self-

including in the context of combating Islamophobia, promoting Islamic solidarity, and advancing shared goals of regional peace, security and stability.

President Erdoğan's visit served to underscore the traditional solidarity and affinity between the two countries and proved to be another significant milestone in further

including trade, investment, banking, finance, energy, tourism, culture, science, communication, education, defence, railways, etc.

Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Erdoğan have been able to establish a rapport that can provide them with a joint vision to mobilise a new collective impulse needed for the Muslim world to recover its lost

glory and regain clout on the global scene. The challenges are daunting indeed. Peace is the essence of Islam but ironically the Muslim nations have seen very little of it, especially after the Second World War with most of the wars taking place on Muslim soils (Middle East, Iraq, Iran, Gulf States, Afghanistan and Pakistan).

Conflict and violence are pervasive in the Muslim world. The tragedies in Palestine, Kashmir, Bosnia, Chechnya, Iraq and Afghanistan represent the continuing helplessness of



world's Muslims. Since 9/11, Islam itself is being demonised by its detractors with obsessive focus on the religion of individuals and groups accused of complicity or involvement in terrorist activities. Islam is being blamed for everything that goes wrong in any part of the world. With violence and extremism becoming anathema to the world's high-and-mighty, Muslim freedom struggles of yesterday are now seen as the primary source of 'militancy and terrorism'. Representing one-fifth of humanity as well as of the global land mass spreading over 57 countries and possessing 70 percent of the world's energy resources and nearly 50 percent of the world's raw materials,



of its own problems or to overcome its weaknesses. Its rulers have mortgaged to the West not only the security and sovereignty of their respective countries but also the political and economic future of their nations. But things now have come to the

other most influential Muslim countries in the world which include Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Malaysia, Indonesia and Egypt. They have the potential to lead the process of change in the Muslim world. But this requires statesmanship of exceptionable calibre that can rise



the Muslim world should have been a global giant, economically as well as politically. Instead, it represents only 5 percent of world's GDP. Though some of them are sitting on top of the world's largest oil and gas reserves, the majority of the Muslim countries are among the most backward in the world. Mostly, poor and dispossessed nations emerging from long colonial rule may have become sovereign states, but they still lack genuine political and economic independence. Their lands and resources are still being exploited by the West. What aggravates this dismal scenario is the inability of the Muslim world as a bloc to take care

boiling point. The winds of change are already sweeping across the long-tormented Arab world. Alarm bells are ringing loud and clear from the Maghreb to the Arabian Peninsula. The 21st century will belong to whosoever makes the best use of its challenges and opportunities. Angels will not descend to help it or salvage its difficulties. There is an urgent need for Muslim countries to commit themselves to scientific and technological advancement. They must also take control of their own resources. This, in fact, is the crux of the challenge that lies ahead not only for Pakistan and Turkey but also the

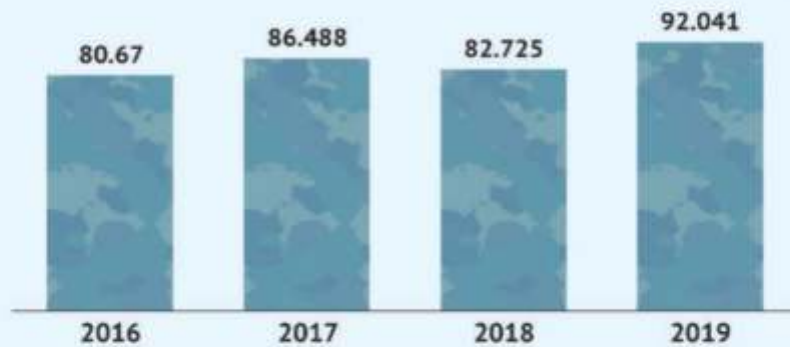
above vested interests and divisive tendencies to be able to forge a fresh collective impulse that leads the Muslim world into a new era of unity and strength to make it a strong, cohesive global entity in political, economic and security matters. Prime Minister Imran Khan, Prime Minister Mahathir and President Erdoğan alone promise the needed statesmanship that can bring the Muslim world together. They should jointly work out a framework of cooperation for the entire Muslim world in the fields of education, economy, science & technology, economy and counter-terrorism. ■

The writer is a former foreign secretary.

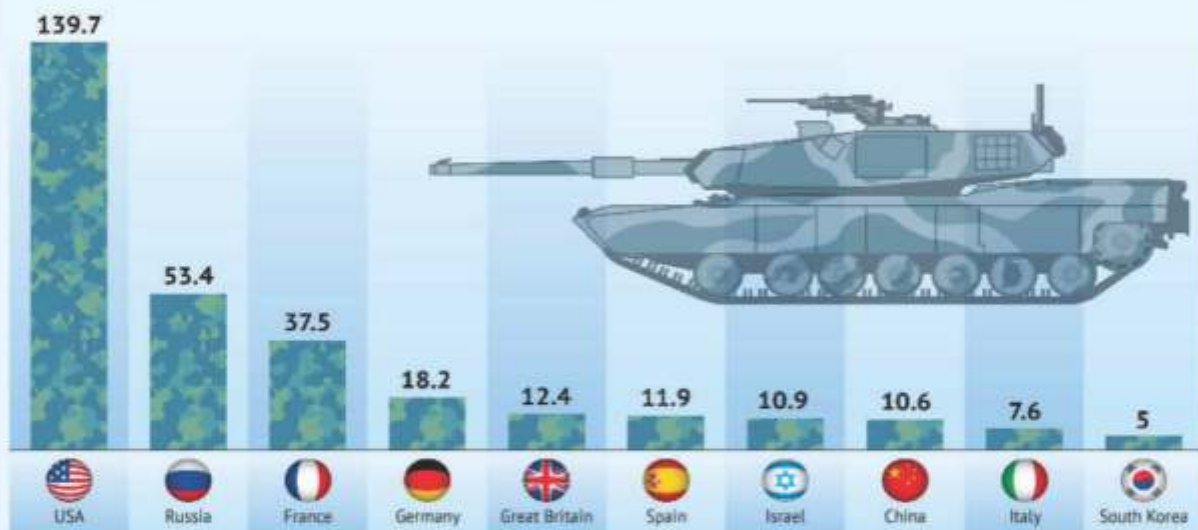
Global Arms Trade

International transfers of major arms during the five-year period 2015–19 increased by 5.5 per cent compared with 2010–14

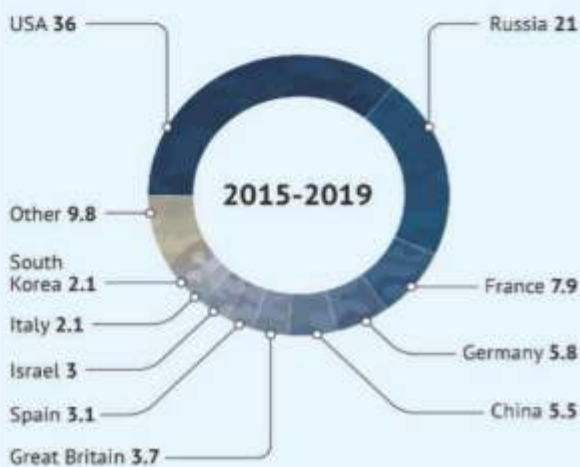
Conventional weapons export/import, \$ billion



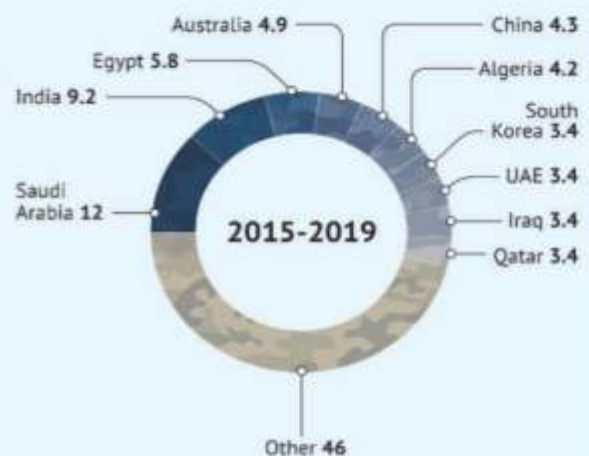
The largest exporters of arms during the period of 2016-2019, \$ billion



10 largest exporters (%)



10 largest importers (%)



There are growing apprehensions among financial experts that coronavirus outbreak and the economic fallout it has sparked could plunge the world economy into a recession. Having largely ignored Covid-19 as it spread across China, global financial markets reacted strongly when the virus spread to Europe and the Middle East, stoking fears of a global pandemic. Since then, risks have been priced so aggressively that some fear a recession in the global economy may be a foregone conclusion. Italy's decision to put much of its prosperous north—including its financial capital, Milan—on semi-lockdown, along with an escalating outbreak in the United States and a precipitous crash in oil prices, is forcing economists to reassess their predictions for how the virus will hit growth.

The world appears to be on the brink of a sudden recession. The economic disruption caused by the coronavirus might put an end to what has been a heady decade on the world stock market since, after the 2008 global financial crisis, low interest rates and quantitative easing became the new normal. Markets are registering massive falls of up to 10%, unprecedented since 2008. Billions of dollars are vanishing. The world bourses recently witnessed a Black Monday, all over again.

At the start of this year, things seemed to be looking up for the global economy. True, growth had slowed a bit in 2019: from 2.9% to 2.3% in the United States, and from 3.6% to 2.9% globally. Still, there had been no recession, and as recently as January, the International Monetary Fund projected a global growth rebound in 2020. The new coronavirus, COVID-19, has changed all of that.

Early predictions about COVID-19's economic impact were reassuring. Similar epidemics – such as the 2003 outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), another China-born coronavirus – did little damage globally. At the country level, GDP growth took a hit, but quickly bounced back, as consumers released pent-up demand and firms rushed to fill back orders and re-stock inventories.

It is becoming increasingly clear, however, that this new coronavirus is likely to do much more damage than SARS. Not only has COVID-19 already caused more deaths than its predecessor; its economic consequences are likely to be compounded by unfavorable conditions – beginning with China's increased economic vulnerability.

China's economy has grown significantly more slowly in the last decade than it did previously. Of course, after decades of double-digit growth, that was to be expected, and China has managed to avoid a hard landing. But Chinese banks hold large amounts of non-performing loans – a source of major risks.

As the COVID-19 outbreak disrupts economic activity – owing partly to the unprecedented subsets of the population – there is reason to expect a sharp slowdown this year, with growth falling significantly below last year's official recent meeting of G20 finance ministers, the IMF down-forecast for China to 5.6% for 2020 – its lowest level since 1990.

This could hamper more dependent on global GDP; today, China is a global supply-chain hub, disruptions there output elsewhere. Commodity exporters – including most of Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East – are likely to be affected the most, as China tends to be their largest customer. But all of China's major trading partners are vulnerable.

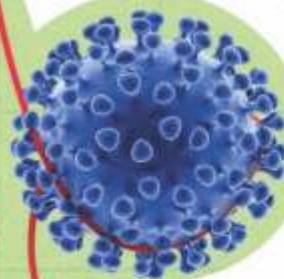
global growth considerably, because the world economy is China than ever. In 2003, China constituted only 4% of that figure stands at 17% (at current exchange rates).

China is a global supply-chain hub, disruptions there output elsewhere. Commodity exporters – including most of Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East – are likely to be affected the most, as China tends to be their largest customer. But all of China's major trading partners are vulnerable.

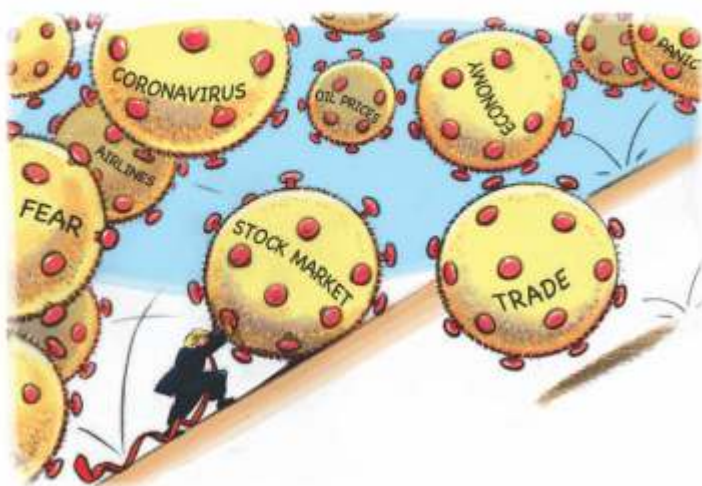
For example, Japan's economy already contracted at an annualized rate of 6.3% in the fourth quarter of 2019, owing to last October's consumption-tax hike. Add to that the loss of trade with China, and a recession – defined as two consecutive quarters of shrinking GDP – now seems likely.

Eur

Coronavirus and Global Economy



Will the economic pandemic cause a global recession?



European manufacturing could also suffer considerably. Europe is more dependent on trade than, say, the United States, and is linked even more extensively to China through a web of supply chains. While Germany narrowly escaped recession last year, it might not be so lucky this year, especially if it fails to undertake some fiscal expansion. As for the United Kingdom, Brexit may finally have the long-feared economic consequences.

All of this could happen even if COVID-19 does not become a full-blown pandemic. In fact, while the virus is proliferating in some countries, such as South Korea, a high infection rate is not a prerequisite for economic hardship. The specter of contagious disease tends to have a disproportionate impact on economic activity, because healthy people avoid travelling, shopping, and even going to work.

Some still cling to growth optimism, rooted in recent trade agreements negotiated by US President Donald Trump's administration: the "phase one" deal with China and the revised free-trade agreement with Canada and Mexico. But while those agreements are far better than they would have been had Trump stuck to the hardline positions he once defended, they do not represent an improvement over the situation that prevailed before he took office; if anything, their net impact is likely to be negative.

Consider the "phase one" deal with China: not only does it leave in place high tariffs; it also remains fragile, owing to a lack of



What Would a Covid-19-Induced Recession Look Like?

Though market sentiment can be misleading, recessionary risk is real. The vulnerability of major economies, including the US economy, has risen as growth has slowed and the expansions of various countries are now less able to absorb shocks. In fact, an exogenous shock hitting the US economy at a time of vulnerability has been the most plausible recessionary scenario for some time.

Recessions typically fall into one of three categories:

Real recession: Classically, this is a CapEx boom cycle that turns to bust and derails the expansion. But severe exogenous demand and supply shocks — such as wars, disasters, or other disruptions — can also push the real economy into a contraction. It's here that Covid-19 has the greatest chance to infect its host.

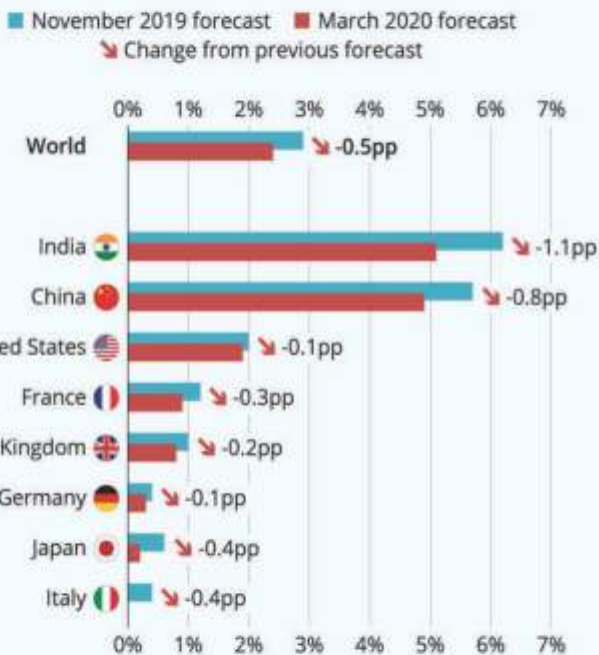
Policy recession: When central banks leave policy rates too high relative to the economy's "neutral" rate, they tighten financial conditions and credit intermediation, and, with a lag, choke off the expansion. This risk remains modest — outside of the US rates are already rock bottom or even negative, while the Federal Reserve has delivered a surprise cut of 50 basis points. Outside of the monetary policy response, the G7 finance ministers have also pledged fiscal support.

Financial crisis: Financial imbalances tend to build up slowly and over long periods of time, before rapidly unwinding, disrupting financial intermediation and then the real economy. There are some marked differences globally, yet in the critical US economy, financial crisis risks are difficult to point to. Some commentators point to the bubble in corporate credit, as seen in significant issuance and tight spreads. Yet, we struggle with the subprime analogy of the last recession, as corporate credit neither funds a real economy boom (as subprime did with housing), nor is the debt held on banks' balance sheets. Both factors limit the systemic risk of a potential shakeout in credit, though this risk can't be dismissed entirely. It's difficult to see Covid-19 contributing to financial imbalances, but stress could arise from cash flow strains, particular in small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Looking at this taxonomy, and again at history, there is some good news in the "real economy" classification. Though idiosyncratic, real recessions tend to be more benign than either policy recessions or those induced by financial crisis, as they represent potentially severe but essentially transient demand (or supply) shocks. Policy recessions, by contrast, can be, depending on the size of the error, severe. In fact, the Great Depression was induced by perhaps the largest policy error ever. And financial crises are the most pernicious kind, since they introduce structural problems into the economy that can take a long time to be corrected.

Coronavirus: OECD Slashes Forecast for World Economy

GDP growth forecast for the world's largest economies in 2020*



credibility on both sides. In any case, its impact is likely to be limited. China may not be able to deliver on its promise to purchase an extra \$200 billion worth of goods from the US, and even if it does, that is unlikely to translate into higher US exports. Instead, those exports will simply be diverted from other customers. While global recessions are exceedingly difficult to forecast, the odds of one – particularly one characterized by less than 2.5% growth, a threshold set by the IMF – now seem to have risen dramatically. (Unlike advanced-economy growth, global growth rarely falls below zero, because developing countries have higher average trend growth.)

So far, US investors seem unconcerned about these risks. But they may be taking too much comfort from the US Federal Reserve's three interest-rate cuts last year. Should the US economy falter, there is nowhere near enough room for the Fed to cut interest rates by 500 basis points, as it has in past recessions. Even if a recession does not materialize in the near term, Trump's approach to trade may herald the end of the era when steadily rising international trade (as a share of GDP) buttressed global peace and prosperity. Instead, the US and China may continue on the path toward economic decoupling, within the context of a broader process of de-globalization. COVID-19 did not place the world's two largest economies on this path, but it could well hasten their journey along it.

Economic Impact on Pakistan

The Coronavirus (COVID-19), since its outbreak in mid-December 2019, has caused turmoil in the world's second-largest economy, China, with a trickle-down effect on nearly all big economies including those of the European Union, United States, Japan and South Korea. Pakistan also is not immune to its disastrous

impacts as Pakistani markets and imports are also starting to feel the impact of the outbreak. In this context, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently released a report according to which the impact of the coronavirus, in terms of the global GDP ranges from \$77 billion in best case scenario to \$347 billion in worst case scenario, or 0.1% to 0.4% of the global GDP, and the total losses likely to be sustained by Pakistan will be only \$16.23 million in best case scenario.

It projected that in best case scenario, Pakistan's agriculture and mining sector could sustain a loss of \$5.5 million; business trade, personal and public service \$5.54 million; hotels and restaurants \$0.67 million; light and heavy manufacturing \$3.6 million and transport services \$0.92 million. In moderate case scenario, the projected losses to be faced by Pakistan are \$34.2 million. In worst case scenario, the projected losses to be faced by Pakistan are \$60.8 million.

In the worst case scenario, Pakistan's agriculture and mining sector will face \$21.7 million losses; business and trade \$18.8 million losses; hotel and restaurants \$2.4 million losses; light and heavy engineering \$14.6 million losses; and transport services \$3.4 million. According to the ADB estimates, around 946,000 people will be unemployed in Pakistan in hypothetical worst case scenario. The net effect of the drop in oil prices due to coronavirus is neutral, yet alarmingly negative for the economy of Pakistan. If this crisis prolongs, it will eventually lead to a significant increase in expenditures; a further slowdown in tax collection; a rise in inflation; and an increase in fiscal deficit. The drop in consumer savings will also affect an already depressed demand, leading to a further slowdown in the economy, according to the advisory firm. Exports will temporarily increase because of the lockdown and seize of trade with China.





US-Taliban Peace Deal

What next?

Zafar Iqbal Yousafzai

Why this peace deal has come so late and why Washington has finally given up on a military solution? What will be the potential future setup and whether it will sustain or unravel again? What would be the implications of the US withdrawal and how it would differ from the Soviet withdrawal? What role the Taliban would play in the Afghan parliament? Would the future setup, where the Taliban will be a part of the government or at least a political force, be successful without any fear of spiralling into yet another conflict? What would be the input of the regional countries to the future political landscape of the Afghan theatre? All these questions need answers but most of the experts, in one way or another, are in disarray vis-à-vis the future political setup in Afghanistan.

When the US invaded Afghanistan and ousted the Taliban regime, the world thought that the country would now enter in an era of peace and stability as the latter's efforts,

either of war or peace and reconstruction, had the support of the international community and world powers, as well as regional countries. However, that did not happen. Afghanistan remained mired in perpetual instability. The US-led coalition forces failed to ensure peace there.

Previously, the US strategy to deal with the Taliban and other associated groups was entirely military-driven. It wanted to eliminate through force all those elements that it considered threat to international peace. Within a couple of years of the US invasion, Pakistan suggested a number of times that the US should strike a peace deal with the Taliban. But, the US ignored the sane advice and continued with its militaristic approach. When the Neo-Taliban emerged and the insurgency intensified year by year after 2004, the US accelerated the search operations and expanded its troop deployment to many additional areas.

When Barack Obama assumed office as President of the United States in

Finally, the United States and Taliban have signed a peace deal in Doha, the capital of Qatar, after 18-month-long negotiations. As per the terms of the agreement, the United States will start withdrawing its troops within 135 days of the deal and will have to complete it within fourteen months—as per an announcement by a spokesman for US Forces in Afghanistan, the troop withdrawal started on March 09. On the eve of deal-signing ceremony, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that the deal was conditional and that the Taliban would have to keep its promises; must cut its ties with the Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups; and keep continue fighting against the ISIS. On various grounds, questions are being raised on the future setup in Afghanistan as there are apprehensions that the country might again plunge in a civil war like that of the 1990s.

INTERNATIONAL

2009, Afghanistan was his main focus—he wanted to handle the situation and push it towards a solution, either by military means or through negotiations and diplomacy. His policy, in one way or another, was pragmatic. He enhanced the troop deployment on the one hand, and ordered his Special Representative, Richard Holbrooke, to make efforts to engage the Taliban for a peace process, on the other. First-ever contacts with the Taliban were made in 2009. In fact, the Obama administration had realised that the Afghan war couldn't be won through military means alone, so it would be wise to initiate, simultaneously, a peace process as well. Later on, the establishment of the Qatar office and other actors' role contributed to the peace process, which has resulted in a historic peace deal that is likely to bring peace to the war-torn Afghanistan.

Moreover, the current deal is highly important for Afghanistan. All the three main parties to the Afghan conflict, i.e. the United States, the Taliban and the Afghan government, were serious about bringing peace to Afghanistan, even they have to compromise on some of their own interests. During the last five years, Afghan president, Ashraf Ghani, has been making herculean efforts for peace but they remained futile until the US too became serious. The Trump administration, though very tough on Pakistan in its early days, realised the sensitivity of the issue. President Trump realized that without a deal with the Taliban, he would never be able to restore peace in Afghanistan. Furthermore, following the publication of Afghanistan papers by the New York Times, the Trump administration felt the rage among the people that their administrations covered up the Afghan war from the public, and mislead them into believing that the US will win the Afghan war. The Taliban also showed flexibility and keenness for the peace process. The Doha deal includes provisions like the US withdrawal and mainstreaming of the Taliban and the latter, in return, has also agreed not to allow Al-Qaeda or any other terrorist group to use Afghan soil in the future.

If hopes are high after the peace deal, scepticism too is there in various circles that the future of the Afghanistan might be volatile after the US withdrawal. The country might witness another Civil War, much like that in the 1990s after the Soviets withdrew. However, the current

situation is quite different from that of the post-Soviet withdrawal period. During that time, three factors played a crucial role in the eruption of the civil war and the subsequent fall of the Najibullah government—the central government, the internal actors (anti-government Mujahideen and warlords) and the external actors (like the Soviet Union, Pakistan, and the United States).

Although the Soviets withdrew, their aid continued pouring in for the next couple of years. The Soviet-backed Najibullah government survived until the Soviet aid continued. However, after the downfall of Gorbachev and the subsequent disintegration of the Soviet Union in

1991, Najibullah could not cope with powerful warlords who were now armed with weapons that had originally come into the country for the Mujahideen. Najibullah resigned from presidency ten days before the Peshawar Accord was signed by the Mujahideen on April 26, 1992.

In addition, internal factors, such as an anti-government coalition of Mujahideen, were strong enough to compel Najibullah to resign. Besides, he had no external financial, military or political support to stay in power. The

external powers' role also contributed to the fall of Najibullah. The most active players in the Afghanistan issue, i.e.

Pakistan, the United States, and the Soviet Union, changed their roles. The Soviets withdrew and later ended financial support for Afghanistan; the US, having achieved its interests, also washed her hands and went off the scene. However, being a next-door neighbor, Pakistan had to stay involved as its interests in Afghanistan were long-lasting.

Pakistan's relations were not good with the Afghan government due to many

reasons so it wanted to have a pro-Pakistan counterweight in Kabul. After the fall of Najibullah government, Pakistan supported the Mujahideen. However, in late 1994, when the Taliban emerged, Pakistan cashed in on the situation by supporting them and they subsequently dominated Kabul in September 1996.

If we compare the current situation, it resembles the previous civil war. The same main actors are there: internal actors (such as the Afghan government and the US); external actors like Pakistan, China, Iran, Russia, Qatar, and some other gulf countries. All these actors will play their role now as well as in the future.



The internal actors are serious about negotiations and a future peace settlement. The US and Taliban have inked a deal that obligates the latter to engage in intra-Afghan talks with the Afghan government. Such agreements were not made in the 1990s. The US is not keen to continue its military involvement in the Afghan war and the Taliban are exhausted after a prolonged war that has spanned almost forty years. Each party is gaining something due to the deal and they are happy about it. The US will withdraw from Afghanistan (the foremost demand of the Taliban); Taliban will become a part of the political process (political legitimacy). These gains, materialising after a long struggle, were very favourable to them. Having taken stock of the situation, the Taliban know they can't rule Afghanistan alone, so it was better to stop fighting and accept a slice of the pie.

Furthermore, being natives, they want their country to move on. As far as the external actors' role is concerned, it's too important to have a positive input for the future Afghan setup in shape of support after the US withdrawal. Being the most actively involved in Afghan affairs since long, Pakistan has a crucial role to play. It has often been said that the path to peace in Afghanistan goes through Pakistan. Without Pakistan's support, any political settlement in the Afghan affairs would be futile. If we look back at the Bonn Conference of 2001 on Afghanistan, Pakistan was misrepresented, which had greatly affected the Afghan settlement. For more than a decade, Pakistan has suffered because of terrorism. It wants to overcome this menace, for which peace in the region in general and in Afghanistan in particular, is indispensable. Furthermore, by becoming a political force, the Taliban would become instrumental in shaping Pakistan's interests-which is to block any anti-Pakistani move in the Afghan parliament.

Furthermore, China also has stakes in Afghanistan. Peace in Afghanistan has numerous positive outcomes for China; it would open a new market for Chinese products; will help China tackle the Xinjiang issue; provide China an opportunity to exploit Afghanistan's natural resources, and, most importantly, would open Afghanistan up to OBOR (One Belt, One Road) which will connect China with Europe and the rest of the world.

For Iran, a peaceful Afghanistan and mainstreaming of the Taliban would be a good development due to many

reasons. It would bring stability in Afghanistan, which directly affects the neighbouring countries. Secondly, due to the US opposition, Iran developed close contacts with the Taliban and also provided them the much-needed support. It was also believed that Iran provided Taliban with anti-aircraft missiles following the souring US-Iran tension. Moreover, the colossal threat of ISIS to Iran would also be curtailed once the Taliban become a part of the Afghan government. Iran's relations with the Taliban have been rocky since the Afghan Civil War when the Taliban assassinated the Iranian diplomats in Mazar-e-Sharif. However, the current situation is different; Iran did want the Taliban to compel the US forces to leave Afghanistan, for its own interests.

For India, peace in Afghanistan is a great development, however; it aspires to have an active role there. However, India did not want the Taliban to be mainstreamed.

So, it is challenging for India to cope with the situation it may face in a post-US withdrawal Afghanistan.

Last but not least, a peaceful Afghanistan and US withdrawal would serve Russia's and Central Asia's interests. Chaos in Afghanistan has also been a threat to Central Asia and the Russian interests in the region. Russia is also supported the Afghan peace process in order to build its clout in the region. The US withdrawal would provide Russia an opportunity to fill the vacuum.

In essence, the interests and priorities of the main actors in the Afghan conflict, in addition to the historical shreds of evidence, prove that the US-Taliban peace deal would be successful in bringing peace to the war-torn country. Although strong scepticism persists in various circles about the future of Afghanistan, the current situation is quite different from that of the post-Soviet withdrawal which led to the Civil War. The failure of the peace agreement seems unlikely as there is only one insurgent group (Taliban) who has a chain of command and works under a proper structure. When the Taliban observed a ceasefire in 2018 on the eve of Eid, not a single bullet was fired. It is now a test time for the Afghan political factions and groups to take advantage of the peace deal and further pave the way for peace in Afghanistan. Now it is Afghans' turn to seize this opportunity and invest in peace. ■

The writer is an Islamabad-based columnist and researcher. He tweets @yousafzaiZafar5.





President Donald Trump very recently rolled out, in his usual flowery words, "the peace proposal of the century" in the US, strangely with only his good friend Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by his side. He was assisted by his son-in-law Jared Kushner in chalking out the plan. Trump is volatile, simplistic, and allegedly suffers from attention deficit disorder. It's rather surprising that he took interest in the very complex Israel-Palestinian conflict and put such a heavy burden on his brain, especially after his ludicrous North Korea strides. Be that as it may, Israeli-Palestinian discord remains the central unresolved issue in the Middle East for many decades now. The matter is extremely complicated in its nature and its prospective solutions have an equally complex and very long backdrop.

Amidst much fanfare, US President Donald Trump officially unveiled his long-awaited "Deal of the Century"—the plan for resolving the century-old Palestinian-Israeli conflict—on January 28. Except for some additional details, the lengthy document did not add much to what had already been previously leaked about the deal. Yet, the content of it has already been widely criticised.

Jewish author Stephen Lendman described it as a "degrading spectacle" which "has nothing to do with peace, nothing to do with respect for Palestinian rights and welfare, everything to do with serving US/Israeli interests exclusively at the expense of regional peace and stability." Even before the "official" unveiling, Peter Ford, former British ambassador to Bahrain and Syria and a senior official to the UN Agency for Palestinian Refugees until 2015 had this to say: "I don't think this plan is serious at all. If you read the 96-pages of this plan it reads like a real-estate prospectus for some utopian maybe one of Donald Trump's real estate developments or a new golf course, where the Palestinians perhaps would have jobs as caddies and green-keepers, looking after it for the Israeli owners of the territory."

The Arab League, after concluding a meeting on the matter, unanimously rejected the plan, while reconfirming the Palestinian rights for statehood and liberation. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) also issued a similar rejection following a meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The UN too has opposed the plan—reiterating that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be solved based on UN resolutions and international law—as have many other world powers, in addition to credible Jewish voices in the US and in Israel. According to Hasan Abu Nimah, a retired Jordanian Ambassador, "the highly biased content of the deal confirms previous predictions that it was entirely authored in Israel by the most hardline extremist and racist settler elements there; the elements that openly claim Palestine as the land of the Jewish people with no place for the Palestinians in it."

Disturbing historical parallels have been drawn between Palestinians and the Bantu people of South Africa by Sheena Anne Arackal, who specialises in the field of ethnic conflict. Ten territories were designated as quasi-autonomous states for the black African population during the mid to late 20th century and kept under control of the white supremacist state. The "Steal of the Century" is intended to bring about a similar fate for the Palestinians. The 181-page description of the proposal, which radiates racism and contempt for Palestinians, effectively denies that Palestinians were forced from their homes, ignores their right to their property and compensation, blames them for "terrorism" despite their (at least) 80:1 death rate with Israelis over the past decade.

What was revealed on January 28 is not a deal, or a peace proposal, or a plan, it is an endorsement of Israel's extremist position that aims at eradicating the Palestinians from their homeland once and for all. Under President Trump's newly unveiled peace plan, the

INTERNATIONAL

Palestinians will be granted limited autonomy within a Palestinian homeland that consists of multiple non-contiguous enclaves scattered throughout the West Bank and Gaza. The government of Israel will retain security control over the Palestinian enclaves and will continue to control Palestinian borders, airspace, aquifers, maritime waters and electromagnetic spectrum. Israel will be allowed to annex the Jordan Valley and Jewish communities in the West Bank, while the Palestinians will be permitted to select the leaders of their new homeland but will have no political rights in Israel, the state that actually rules over them. The plan, made by Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and advisor, David Friedman, US Ambassador to Israel, and Jason Greenblatt, Special Assistant to the President for International Negotiations, grants the Palestinian homeland autonomy over civil matters like education and healthcare, while keeping critical areas such as trade, immigration, and security under Israeli control.

But the "miracle plan" has two parts, one with an economic and the other with a political focus. On the economic side, it talks about a USD 50 billion investment budget over the next 10 years, partly substituting USAID's funding cuts from ongoing and future Gaza and Palestine development projects—so, hardly any new money. While Germany has paid at least USD 100 billion (so far) to the Jewish/Israeli communities as compensation for damages in World War II, Israel has yet to pay anything for its theft of nearly an entire country, the contents of homes and businesses and for the many thousands of those it murdered and maimed. To add insult to injury, the Palestinians will not be permitted to administer this funding: Israel, with its

long history of skimming from the top of donations to Palestinians, will almost certainly administer any funding. Under the Plan, the Palestinians would essentially recognise the illegally built Israeli Settlements, and give up any hope of rights to Jerusalem as a shared capital—Trump has already placed the US Embassy in Jerusalem to make sure there is no misunderstanding in regards to that. The deal says that Muslims wanting to visit their historic al-Aksa Mosque must get Israeli permission. UNWRA, The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, would disappear. Other UN agreements and arrangement specially concluded in support of the discriminated Palestinian people would also be cancelled—all under the pretext that Palestine is now an autonomous state.

Not only was this sham of a "peace plan" made without the participation of Palestinians, but it defies international law and international precedent on the issue and ignores Palestinian interests. Without question, by declaring Jerusalem Israel's "undivided" capital, Trump has angered and pushed Palestinians away from coming to any sort of possible resolution to decades of violent conflict. Due to this proposal, Israel now has more of a reason to annex major illegal Israeli colonies in occupied West Bank.

The so-called "Vision for Peace" unveiled by Trump simply confirmed that the US government has publicly adopted the long-running consensus in Israel: that it is entitled to keep permanently the swaths of territory it seized illegally over the past half-century that deny the Palestinians any hope of a state. Importantly for Israel, it will get Washington's permission to annex all of its illegal settlements, now littered across the West Bank, as well as the vast agricultural basin of the Jordan Valley, while



Israel will continue to have military control over the entire West Bank.

Furthermore, the Trump administration appears to be considering giving a go-ahead to the Israeli Right's long-held hopes of redrawing the current borders in such a way as to transfer potentially hundreds of thousands of Palestinians currently living in Israel as citizens into the West Bank. That would almost certainly amount to a war crime. The plan leaves no right of return for Palestinians, and it seems the Arab world will be expected to foot the bill for compensating millions of

Palestinian refugees.

All of this has been dressed up as a "realistic two-state solution", offering the Palestinians nearly 70 percent of the occupied territories—which in turn comprise 22 percent of their original homeland. Put another way, the Palestinians are being required to accept a state on 15 percent of historic Palestine after Israel has seized all the best agricultural land and the water sources.

As described by Bill Van Auken, the maps revealed along with the plan: "show a patchwork of Palestinian cantons

recognised Palestine, Palestinians would not be not permitted to have any international treaties unless specifically approved by Israel, leaving them on their own and completely at the mercy of their tormentors.

Like all one-time deals, this patchwork "state"—lacking an army, and where Israel controls its security, borders, coastal waters and airspace—has an expiry date. It needs to be accepted within four years. Otherwise, Israel will have a free hand to start plundering yet more Palestinian territory.

But the truth is that neither Israel nor the US expects or wants the Palestinians to accept the deal. That is why the plan includes—as well as annexation of the settlements—a host of unrealisable preconditions before what remains of Palestine can be recognised: the Palestinian factions must disarm, with Hamas dismantled; the Palestinian Authority led by Mahmoud Abbas must strip the families of political prisoners of their stipends. And as Robert Fisk explained, "the belief that the Palestinians would dream of accepting such a deranged, farcical set of political demands is without precedent in the western world."

The deal is most likely Trump telling his supporters that I am sticking to my campaign pledge of solving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. However, it is not actually serious about solving the problem. But it does allow Trump to go back and say, we proposed a great deal, it is the Palestinians who rejected it—the same argument that the US and Israel have been sticking to now for decades.

For some critics, the timing of the declaration was seen as an opportunistic move to salvage two in-crisis leaders from problems they are facing at home—in fact, Netanyahu was indicted on corruption charges while in Washington awaiting the announcement ceremony of the deal. And to help Netanyahu in his battle in the third Israeli general election due on March 2, as well as Trump's bid for a second presidential term at the end of this year. And, according to Hasan Abu Nimah, "nothing could be more distressing than when the destiny of an entire people, the Palestinian people, is immorally, illegally and inhumanely utilised for such pure personal purposes." However, that is what this Machiavellian game that the US and Israel are playing with the Palestinians is.

Which is why the plan seems to have been designed intentionally in such a way that it is

rejected by the Palestinians, so that they would be held responsible for missing another opportunity for peace and losing also their share as very poorly defined in the deal, the imagined Palestinian state, while the Israelis would then be free to grab most of the territory that it hasn't already. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced his intention to bring just such an annexation plan before his cabinet as soon as possible. ■

Trump's so-called 'Deal of Century' seeks to annihilate Palestinian cause

The so-called "Deal of the Century" unveiled by U.S. President Donald Trump arrived at the expense of Palestinian will, putting Israel's interests above the territorial sovereignty and national dignity of Palestinians

JERUSALEM IS ISRAEL'S 'UNDIVIDED CAPITAL'
The plan declares Jerusalem as Israel's "undivided capital" and recognizes a territory outside of Western Wall in Jerusalem as Palestine's capital

PLAN JUSTIFIES ILLEGAL JEWISH SETTLEMENTS
The plan justifies illegal Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank by recognizing them as Israel's soil

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES HAVE NO RIGHT TO RETURN HOME
While aiming to take away the right of nearly 5 million Palestinian refugees to return to their home, the plan foresees the continuation of Israeli dominance in Jordan Valley

STATUS OF AL-AQSA MOSQUE TO REMAIN SAME
According to the plan, there will be no change in the status quo around Al-Aqsa Mosque, but it gives Palestine a four-year ultimatum to fulfill necessary conditions to become an independent state

RECOGNIZES ISRAEL'S SOVEREIGNTY ON MARITIME BOUNDARIES
The plan recognizes Israel's borders in the Mediterranean Sea, accepting the high-handed policy pursued by Israel for a while in the Mediterranean

ECONOMIC FRAME
The plan proposes a \$50 billion economic package, as well as many economic projects with neighboring countries to provide economic growth for Palestine

REACTION FROM WORLD
• The plan that accepts all of Israel's political claims drew criticism from the Palestinian government, Turkey, Jordan, Iran and Yemen for ignoring the Palestinian side
• UN also announced that it is committed to the two-state solution as "defined throughout years on the basis of pre-1967 lines"

surrounded by Israeli territory, linked one to another by a series of Israeli-controlled bridges, tunnels and roads. The cantons themselves are peppered with what the plan describes as 'Israeli enclave communities,' i.e., Zionist settlements that will be walled off, linked by apartheid-style Israeli-only security roads, and protected by Israeli security forces." Imports and exports would have to pass through Israel, making the "cantons" vulnerable to possible Israeli siege. While over 140 countries have

Today, international relations is marked by growing great power competition and Russia and a decline in multilateralism. While the European Union is also a power in economic, technological and trade realms, it has been steadily losing ground in a world increasingly dominated by a disruptive US, an assertive China and a revanchist Russia. As a supranational entity of 27 member states, it is the progeny of precisely the multilateral order that is now in decline. Should the EU seek to become a more unified geopolitical bloc to better compete against other powers? If so, can the EU pursue a distinctive great power strategy, a middle way between dreamy idealism and unprincipled pragmatism? Can it play a crucial stabilizing role in an increasingly unstable world? Let's find out the answers!



Emerging Great-Power Competition

Where does the European Union stand?

Magazine Desk

World War II, and the period of decolonization that followed, brought to an end the centuries-long global domination of Europe's great powers. After 1945, neither of the global powers – the United States and the Soviet Union – was European, and a plethora of newly independent nation-states bounded onto the world stage. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the US became the world's only superpower – and quickly overextended itself. Having achieved victories both in the Pacific and in Europe, only the US was strong enough to provide the still-dominant West with a political and economic order. The unipolar moment ended with the senseless US-led invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq in 2001 and 2003, respectively. But the global order cannot exist in a vacuum, because other powers will always step in to fill the void. Hence, the new emerging power, China, has been rushing to assert itself on the world stage, as has a militarily reinvigorated Russia, the world's other major nuclear power after the US. The current order is no longer defined by one or two superpowers, but nor is it based on multilateralism, or on any other framework designed to balance competing interests and contain, prevent, or resolve conflicts. The election of US President Donald Trump marked the beginning of America's active renunciation of the global order that it helped build. Under Trump, the US has deliberately tried to destroy post-war institutions such as the World Trade Organization, while openly questioning time-tested international



alliances such as NATO. The multilateral Pax Americana of the Cold War era has given way to the return of a world in which individual countries assert their national interests at the expense of other, weaker powers. Sometimes this involves economic or diplomatic pressure; and sometimes, as in the case of Russia's actions in eastern Ukraine, it involves the use of force.

In this state of affairs, the global power whose future is most uncertain is undoubtedly the European Union. How will Brexit impact the EU's international identity? How will the re-election of Donald Trump as president of the US affect the future course of transatlantic relations? Will the EU's postmodern/supranational integration process survive the growing appeal of illiberal populist political movements across the continent? Answering such questions is closely related to how the EU will situate itself in the accelerating geopolitical competition with the US, China and Russia. Depending on

the position the EU adopts in the emerging great power confrontation between the United States on the one hand and Russia and China on the other, the EU's future might unfold in three different ways. The EU might alternatively choose to become an American appendage, a playground or an autonomous player in this context.

American appendage

This role suggests that America's European allies increase their military capabilities either within NATO or the EU in such a way to help lessen the burden on the shoulders of the US. For the European allies to guarantee the continuation of the American commitment to their security, they should support the US deal with Russia and China more effectively by taking on more security responsibilities in and around Europe.

The prerequisite for Europeans to choose this option is to share two assumptions in common with one another. One is that Europeans do still believe that the United States is playing its traditional pacifier role in Europe and Europeans not only feel vulnerable to emerging security challenges in Europe's neighbourhood but also fear the intentions of each other. The underlying logic here is that the security community in Europe and the achievements of the EU integration process owe their existence to the provision of American security commitment. The second assumption is that Europeans view the emerging international order from a US-friendly perspective. This suggests that, similar to Americans, Europeans also view Russia and China as geopolitical rivals to be reckoned with and therefore see their future in strengthening their ties with the United States. Subscribing to this position also suggests that the US and its European allies do still constitute the so-called liberal international order and the points of commonalities between Europeans and Americans far outnumber the points of commonalities that Europeans happen to share with Russians and the Chinese.

Looking from this perspective, Europeans should wait out the Trump administration and continue to prove their relevance to the materialization of American foreign and security policy interests all over the world. Europeans should invest in NATO's global identity and adopt the American position that NATO's future hinges on its transformation into a global alliance aiming at containing Russian and Chinese ambitions rather than letting the alliance atrophy.

This role conceptualization suggests that unless European allies increase their military power capabilities

and adopt a more geopolitical worldview than before, Americans would not take them seriously. It is the US that has more bargaining power in transatlantic relations and it is up to Europeans to decide whether or not they would take American leadership for granted.

A playground

Many pundits argue that unless the EU develops a strategic actorness with all hard power capabilities required for such a role, the EU would end up being a playground of the emerging geopolitical competition worldwide. Compared to other global actors, the EU would best be described as a soft power long in civilian and normative capabilities yet short in military competence. The risk here is that the EU, being a herbivorous power, would find it difficult to survive in the "survival of the fittest" game played by rapacious carnivorous powers. For Europeans to survive in the emerging Hobbesian jungle of global politics, they will soon need to accommodate the Kantian principles that have so long underpinned the



European vision of international relations which no longer appear as attractive as it used to be in the good old days.

If the EU does not want to become the playground of global geopolitical rivalries, it needs to transform into a credible international actor speaking with one voice in international platforms. Neither member states themselves nor any intra-EU groupings would suffice to weather the storms of intensifying geopolitical competitions.

Assuming that Europeans could protect themselves and their Kantian paradise against outside challenges by pulling up drawbridges does not hold true in today's world either because Europe has already turned into a theatre of global geopolitical games. Outside global powers have been very much involved in Europe's internal politics. Europeans do not have the luxury of closing their gates to outsiders.

As of today, it seems that the US, China and Russia try to

do their best to sow divisions among EU members by cultivating closer relations with each and every one of them to the detriment of the EU's international agency. Russia's efforts to build a gas pipeline to Germany, China's attempts to forge institutional relations with many Central and Eastern European as well as Balkan and Baltic countries outside the EU framework, and America's support to nationalist and anti-integrationist parties across the continent are all examples of the time-tested game of divide-and-rule politics being played on European soil. American support to Brexit and Russia's attempts at circumventing EU-imposed sanctions by developing strategic interactions with European heavyweights like France and Germany all attest to the outsiders' efforts to mould the EU to their liking.

Of all the alternative futures EU members could choose, that of being the playground is the least likely to materialize because this would suggest that EU members have already forgotten their past and given up their decades-old aspirations to help transform the dynamics of global politics in line with the constitutive norms of the European security community.

An autonomous neutral actor

The third option that EU members could alternatively choose is to transform the European Union into an autonomous international actor endowed with the will and capability to protect and promote its distinctive values, characteristics and policies across the globe.

The European Union and its member states have profoundly benefited from the liberal international order and they have been in such an international environment that European values have defined the boundaries of appropriate behaviours in different realms. It is not a coincidence that Germany has become one of the most powerful trading states since the early 1950s and that the EU integration process has become the most cherished role model for other states in their efforts to experience long-lasting economic development and social peace.

So long as the European continent has constituted the focal point of global politics and the United States has seen the deepening and widening of the EU in its national interests, the need to down the EU with autonomous actorness was not so high. Yet, those were the days. Today, the American commitment to the European Union peace project cannot be taken for granted and neither Russia nor China sees the continuation of the EU integration process as vital to their interests.

Besides, there are important differences between American and European perspectives on China, Russia,

the Middle East and many other global issues of concern. While China has already become the United States' No. 1 antagonist, the European Union prefers to see China from an economic perspective with China's spectacular rise offering European countries immense opportunities to tap into. While Washington defines Vladimir Putin's Russia as an enemy that needs to be contained and rolled back, Brussels and many European capitals are looking for ways to reach a *modus vivendi* with Moscow so that Europeans could respond to emerging threats in their neighbourhood more effectively. While Trump's America believes in a transactional and zero-sum mentality in its international relations, European nations do still believe in multilateralism as well as rules-based global governance.

It seems that a growing number of Europeans now realize that the isolationist turn in US foreign policy cannot be easily reverted back even if Trump loses the upcoming presidential elections in November this year. The latest Munich Security Conference held in February 2020 has

undoubtedly demonstrated that Republican and Democratic elites alike have come closer to each other in terms of viewing the world through the prisms of *realpolitik* power competitions and a new Cold War taking shape between the US on the one hand, and Russia and China on the other.

Choosing one of the parties at the expense of the other or simply hoping that everything would be fine as history unfolds could potentially become an option.

Yet, the incessant pressure of the Trump administration on Europeans to choose their sides in the new Cold War, let alone Chinese and Russian involvement in European politics, should serve as clarion calls for Europeans to make their mind up sooner rather than later.

Conclusion

The discussion can be summed up in the words of Joschka Fischer, former Foreign Minister of Germany and its Vice Chancellor from 1998-2005 who wrote: "The political transformation that is underway is being forced upon integrationists and inter-governmentalists alike. The challenge now is to transform Europe into a great power before it is ground down by larger technological and geopolitical forces. Europe cannot afford to fall behind technologically or in terms of geopolitical power. It has a responsibility to lead the rest of the world on the issue of climate change, which will require technological as well as regulatory innovation. In a world quickly succumbing to zero-sum rivalries, becoming a climate-policy great power should be Europe's top priority." ■



ORGANIZED VIOLENCE IN DELHI 2020

The ugly face of BJP's
Hindutva Ideology

M. Shraz

Countrywide protests in India and provocative hate speeches made by the leaders of country's ruling party, have questioned the basic bedrock of India's democratic credentials. Indian democracy and secularism, which are often touted as the essence of India, seem under immense threat and this threat reached its zenith when horrendous acts of violence were witnessed against Muslims in the northeastern region of New Delhi, the capital of India. Homes and mosques were torched, businesses razed. Those Indian Muslims who resisted had acid thrown at their faces. Others were shot at. The Hindu mobs came in numbers, carried saffron flags, and chanted "Jai Shree Ram" - a battle cry for a Hindu India.

Introduction
On February 24, Hindu nationalist mobs descended on the northeastern parts of India's capital, New Delhi, and wreaked havoc for several days, targeting Muslim businesses and homes. More than 50 people were

In the wake of US President Donald Trump's visit, India's capital, New Delhi, witnessed the worst pogrom in its history. In this carnage, which was carried out by Hindutva followers under BJP's patronage, Muslims were butchered, their homes were ransacked, their schools were burned and their places of worship desecrated. As per usual after incidents of violence against minorities in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi responded with days of silence. Finally commenting on Twitter, he said, "peace and harmony are central to our ethos" and appealed for "peace and brotherhood at all times". But, there is hardly any doubt now that under Modi, India's ethos is Hindu, and peace and brotherhood requires religious minorities to know their place.

killed and hundreds were injured in the violence. It was the worst religious violence in India in years. This was not violence of a languid kind; sporadic or disarranged. Mobs walked the streets with weapons towards Muslim areas to inflict harm. It quickly emerged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the Delhi police force his government oversees, had tacitly supported the mobs, who chanted Hindu nationalist slogans as they burned buildings and beat Muslims while police reportedly looked on. Vidya Subrahmaniam, an award-winning Indian journalist and political commentator, personally visited the affected areas and she described the destruction she saw in the following words:
"In the aftermath of the attacks, I visited one of the worst-affected neighbourhoods, Shiv Vihar, and witnessed the destruction. While Hindu shops and residences looked largely intact, most Muslim houses and businesses were gutted down to their bare bones. The burnt remains

of the possessions of Muslim families ... were scattered across the neighbourhood's narrow lanes ... Hindu residents seemed to be carrying on with their lives as normal, but Muslims were nowhere to be seen - they had all left, seeking safety in relief camps set up by the government." (India's Muslims are punished for asking to be Indian; Al Jazeera, 7 Mar 2020)

Reasons behind violence

1. Anti-CAA protests

The unrest was triggered after the weeks-long sit-ins in Delhi against the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which discriminates against Muslims as it provides a path to citizenship for refugees from India's neighbouring countries as long as those refugees were Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Christians, or Buddhists, and not Muslims. That and an upcoming plan to register citizens throughout the country have caused Muslims who have lived in India for generations to fear that they could be



declared illegal aliens if they cannot produce birth certificates or other documentation to prove their connection to India. And, there apprehension are not totally unfounded as a version of this exercise was conducted in the state of Assam, with disastrous effects. About 1.9 million Assamese were declared non-citizens and will now have to go through a long appeals process in special courts that function poorly. That is why they have been protesting the law and a number of mainstream and regional political parties and secular voice in the country have supported them in these protests.



2. BJP's communal and anti-Muslim politics

In recent elections for the Delhi State Assembly, Modi's party ran a dangerously sectarian campaign. Its leaders equated the protests against the citizenship law with treason and called for the murder of protesters. For example, the BJP ran a vicious campaign targeting the city's Muslims. Anurag Thakur, the junior finance minister, incited the crowd at an election rally to shout "shoot the traitors". Another minister, Parvesh Verma, swore the protesters would be "sent packing" within hours of a BJP victory, adding that if left unchecked, they would "rape and kill".

Travelling to Delhi to energise voters, Adityanath, the militant Hindu monk in Uttar Pradesh, said the protesters should be fed "bullets". Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah, meanwhile, implied



the protesters were anti-India and pro-Pakistan. Modi termed the ongoing protests a "conspiracy" designed to undermine "India's harmony". Shah claimed protesters had raised slogans like "Jinnah wali azaadi (We want Jinnah-style independence)", suggesting they demand the disintegration of India.

3. BJP's rout in Delhi elections

Narendra Modi's right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was routed in the Delhi elections as Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won 62 out of 70 seats while the BJP could win only 8. Despite being roundly defeated in the Delhi election, BJP leaders have continued their campaign of polarisation in preparation for future elections. The recent violence was sparked when BJP leaders and supporters mobilised to break up protests against the CAA and NRC in Delhi. It was no accident the violence was concentrated in fiercely contested electorates where BJP leaders had urged voters to show their anger against the Shaheen Bagh women by voting for the party.

INTERNATIONAL

**Authorities' indifference**

When the inevitable happened and the protesters were attacked, the violence quickly spread across Delhi. The authorities did little to ease the tensions, while the police faced accusations of looking the other way. A particularly gruesome video, which has been fact-checked and verified, shows Delhi policemen standing around five badly injured Muslim men lying on the road, forcing them to sing the national anthem. They can be heard hurling abuses. One of the men has died of his injuries.

Investigators later found out that guns and goons might have added fuel to the fire. It also emerged that between 1,500 and 2,000 outsiders were brought to Delhi and they lodged there for nearly 24 hours under a planned conspiracy to unleash violence against Muslims. Most of these people stayed in schools before attacking the neighbourhoods.

Modi keeps silent

Prime Minister Modi has done little or nothing to reassure Muslim citizens who see these trends as threatening their future. He has—half-heartedly—called for an end to the current violence but has not been outspoken in condemning those who are committing that violence, nor has he called on the police to protect the Muslim community. He has also shown no interest in altering the discriminatory legislation that prompted the current round of protests. He may be appealing to what he sees as his base. Still, neither he nor any future leader should want to marginalize further India's 200 million Muslims or the broader international Muslim community.

What the future holds?

Ashutosh Varshney, a Brown University professor and author of the prize-winning *Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life: Hindus and Muslims in India*, believes that Delhi violence bear some of the hallmarks of an organized pogrom. India has been there before: In 2002, in Gujarat, when Modi was the state's chief minister, more than 1,000 people were killed in religious riots. Most were Muslims. While Modi was later cleared of wrongdoing by the country's judiciary, critics say that he could have done much more to prevent the attacks. And in 1984, again in Delhi, an estimated 3,000 Sikhs were targeted and killed after Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was

Threat to India's Muslims no longer an 'internal issue'

Recent events in India have raised worldwide concern as the tempo of violence against the country's 200 million Muslim minority by Hindu hooligans armed with swords and guns has increased. Even the OIC, the largest organisation of the Muslim world headquartered in Jeddah, an organisation that had been quiet earlier, had to make a very blunt statement. The OIC also asked the Modi-led BJP government to "bring the instigators and perpetrators of anti-Muslim violence to justice and to ensure the safety and security of all its Muslim citizens and the protection of Islamic holy places across the country." The OIC's call was soon followed by the UN rights chief whose offices sought to join efforts challenging the legislation to India's controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in the country's highest court. Iran also cautioned India with the Iranian foreign minister Javid Zarif condemning the "wave of



organised violence against Indian Muslims". Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also lashed out against "the massacres" of Muslims in India.

India apparently is not heeding such advice and seems committed to continue its present course. In fact, it more or less rejected the OIC statement on the violence calling it "selective and misleading" adding further that "The Citizenship Amendment Act is an internal matter of India and concerns the sovereign right of the Indian parliament to make laws." Under any other circumstances, they would have been justified. But in view of the recent clampdown of Kashmir's eight million Muslim inhabitants, the abrogation of bills and treaties that had previously guaranteed the minorities living in India a fair share, it can no longer be considered an internal matter. And certainly not when it comes to the fate of over 200 million Indian Muslims who stand at a precipice today.

assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards. In both cases, experts say, riots could not have been conducted without some complicity on the part of the police. The deadly clashes in Delhi could be repeated in other parts of the country, and Muslims are particularly vulnerable. The most vulnerable Muslim populations are in BJP-ruled states, because the role of the police is critical—and the police come under the state government. If BJP governments in various states of India push the police against the Muslims, then only the bravest police officers would resist, because the authority structure is very clear. The danger to Muslim minorities in BJP-ruled states is grave. Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state with a population of 200 million, seems particularly vulnerable. Muslims comprise about 18 percent of the population there, and they are spread out all over the state. There was a big riot in Muzaffarnagar in 2013, for example, and the police were nowhere to be seen. UP is also ruled by a politician, Yogi Adityanath, whose anti-Muslim prejudice and fervor is well-known and has been openly displayed. Responsibilities of Indian civil society and media Civil society can be quite important in creating bulwarks of resistance and peace, but that is not something it can do instantly. The creation of inter-religious networks between Hindus and Muslims takes a few years, if not



fewer in number today than was the case earlier. They are not entirely absent but a large number of them do not have the courage to stand up to political authorities.

Conclusion

This violence is the continuation and manifestation of the anti-Muslim feelings that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been fanning over the decades to gain political advantage. That the BJP itself is an extremist party and belongs to the so-called Sangh Parivar (Sangh family) is no more a moot point. The anti-CAA protests and sit-ins have been overall peaceful and it is the Sangh-family activists

and militants who have been repeatedly responding with violence against the peaceful protestors. The role of the police too has been highly questionable. India claims to be the world's largest democracy with a secular constitution that guarantees all fundamental rights and freedoms including the freedom of expression and faith. During the past 70 years or so, these rights and freedoms have come under attack many times but fortunately the constitution survived. Now the BJP is bent upon destroying the foundations of Indian democracy and secularism. The messages sent out from the capital to the rest of the country are clear. We already know from the events of 2002 in his native Gujarat that Modi is



more. The probability of integrated communities coming apart is much lower than the probability of segregated communities coming apart. A more immediate issue always is how to minimize the extent or the intensity of violence. And that's where the media plays a key role. By reporting courageously; by condemning what it finds unacceptable and sees as clear violations of norms, rules, and laws; and by creating a narrative of critique, the media can slow down or reduce the intensity of violence. Sometimes the police intervene, too—even without political approval. Legally and constitutionally, the police can step in during moments of crisis. However, those police officers, administrators, and bureaucrats seem

capable of heinous crime and mass murder. His government has allowed extremist Hindu forces to be unleashed and turn parts of Delhi into a killing field. This will not help bring any kind of calm to an India that is more troubled in communal terms than at any previous time since Partition. We can only wait and see how the world will react, if the Indian opposition will take a stance beyond issuing statements and if anyone will stand up to defend Muslims who are the main target for the horrors unleashed in India's capital. This tendency will harm not only India but will also imperil peace in South Asia once again. ■



The Coming Refugee Crisis

Syria vs Turkey vs Russia vs the EU ... and the Refugees

Europe's most serious humanitarian crisis of the 21st century, long in the making but recently in hiding, has resumed with scenes of chaos and despair at the Greek border. Turkey's opening of its borders with two EU members, Bulgaria and Greece, in the wake of a Syrian strike that killed 34 Turkish soldiers on 27 February, a tragedy began to unfold: Turkey decided to open its border for refugees to cross into Europe, effectively halting the 2016 migration deal between the country and the European Union. Thousands of refugees, camped out in the open, are clinging to a sliver of hope that they will be able to cross into Europe.

Background

For a war that has supposedly been won, Syria continues to bleed refugees at an alarming rate. Idlib, a city in the country's northwest, is the final rebel holdout that keeps Bashar al-Assad—and his Russian backers—from complete victory in his country's nine-year civil war. While the West has largely disengaged from the Syrian conflict, Turkey's President Erdogan has continued his offensive in the country, both to prevent Kurds in neighbouring Syria from successfully establishing a territory for themselves and as a way of ensuring that his country doesn't get flooded by yet another wave of refugees.

It is no coincidence that the abrupt decision to open the border has come at a time of massive mobilisation of Turkish troops inside Idlib. Turkey aims to prevent a wholesale onslaught by Russia and the Syrian regime there, which would drive some of its 2.7 million inhabitants towards the Turkish border. The majority of Syrians who live in Idlib have family members who joined the ranks of the opposition or fled from other parts of Syria to escape the Assad regime. As they will not go back to regime-held Syria, and with the Turkish-Syrian border firmly sealed, they are trapped. Already hosting 3.7 million Syrians, Turkey does not want to be in a position to have to accept more.

Why Erdogan opened borders?

Erdogan's first motivation is to gain European support, politically and financially, in his quest to establish a safe zone inside Idlib, in preparation for a potential influx of internally displaced persons.

The issue of forced migration and internally displaced persons (IDPs) is perhaps the most defining problem of our age, and the civil war in Syria is its most typical case. It is very difficult to deal with because it is a regional problem that can only be addressed through global cooperation. In earlier March, Turkey announced its decision to not host the refugees anymore saying it had 'reached its capacity' and opened its borders to allow the refugees' passage to Europe. Thousands have since massed at the Greek border, triggering fears of an influx like that which poisoned European politics in 2015. These refugees are once again being seen as pawns in a geopolitical game, as chinks appear in "Fortress Europe".

INTERNATIONAL

Domestic considerations are also a factor in Ankara's decision to push migrants towards the border. With news of Turkish casualties from the Idlib front and the government's Syria policy under growing public scrutiny, Erdogan must also hope that polemic on migration will shift the domestic debate away from Syria and towards Euro-bashing. An attack that killed 36 Turkish troops has fuelled a bitter internal debate on Turkish engagement with Syria. To Erdogan's critics, the crisis in Idlib is a consequence of his failed Syria policy - and not a "fight against terrorism" as they believed previous incursions to be.

Then, of course, there is Turkey's desire to renegotiate the 2016 refugee agreement with the EU for a new tranche of financial aid. Facing real budgetary difficulties and jittery markets, Ankara hopes that a new financial agreement with the EU will promote a positive image of the economy and reverse the decline in support for Erdogan's Justice and Development Party.

Erdogan has long complained that the EU has not lived up to its end of the bargain, even though the bloc has already paid Turkey around half of the €6 billion specified under the deal and the rest is, according to EU officials, already "contracted out" to be paid by 2022. Here, domestic political considerations have merged with financial ones. Turkey's refugee policy is unpopular and, at a time of economic downturn, many Turks see Syrians as the cause of their predicament, taking up a refugees-out narrative. This is also the reason why the government is wildly exaggerating the number of refugees who have left Turkey - to as much as 140,000 - while EU officials discuss crossings of the Aegean as being "in the thousands".

Europe's regulatory framework, which only allows for payments to specific institutions and projects (as

opposed to a direct payment to the Turkish government) has long frustrated Ankara. And Erdogan hopes that his government can gain more autonomy over the funds this time.

How Will EU deal with the crisis?

The chaos triggered by more clashes and deaths at the Greek border risks hardline measures from Europe as the bloc still has nightmares about the mismanaged chaos of the 2015 influx of migrants and refugees, which produced horrible pictures of dead children, masses of unregistered people wandering the roads, political divisions and a significant boost to far-right populism across the Continent.

Turkey's vow to let hundreds of thousands more leave for Europe has done more than revive those fears. It has exposed Europe's failure to use the time bought since 2016, when it made a deal to pay Turkey to house migrants and refugees, to create a coherent migration or asylum policy.

So Europe once again finds itself in a quandary, trying to tread a line between two NATO members, Turkey and Greece, one trying to push refugees forward, the other trying to keep them out.

There is little doubt that Europe, beyond Greece, wants neither the migrants nor another crisis. Greece, having suspended EU asylum law, is implementing summary deportations and ignoring asylum applications. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen praised Greece as "Europe's shield", Brussels has also earmarked €700 million to help Greece deal with the situation. Brussels has also earmarked €700 million to help Greece deal with the situation.

For the European Union, however, it is an awkward moral clash with its professed values of protecting human rights, individual dignity and the right to seek asylum under international law, which Greece says it has suspended for now.

European Union officials are quietly talking to Turkey about providing further help, but there is no sign that European nations will provide the military support Erdogan wants to create a "safe zone" in Idlib and a no-fly zone there.

The bloc's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell Fontelles, announced 60 million euros' worth of aid for the most vulnerable people in northwest Syria after talks in Ankara with Mr Erdogan. Senior EU officials had announced a much larger sum, 700 million euros, in new aid to Athens to help it tackle the migrant crisis.




European officials point out that the border between Idlib and Turkey is tightly shut and that so far there is no new influx of Syrian refugees.



The EU-Turkey refugee deal

... was signed in 2016. The agreement includes the following points:

EU

-  to return all migrants illegally arriving to the Greek islands via Turkey
-  to provide financial aid for refugees in Turkey
-  to regularly accept Syrian refugees from Turkey

Turkey

-  to combat illegal migration

EU / Turkey

- to reopen talks over Turkey's accession to the EU
- to discuss liberalization of visa requirements for Turkish citizens



Has Erdogan burned his bridges?

The Turkish president may well have gone too far, prompting EU leaders to lose any appetite for renegotiating a deal with Turkey. Whether Europe will be drawn further into the war in Syria remains to be seen. Likewise, whether this will spark another full-blown crisis, and to what extent this will propel Europe's political right, is not certain. Whatever the outcome, however, the humanitarian consequences deserve our attention.

Europe has failed to find a humane response to the so-called refugee crisis. The Minniti deals that Italy struck with Libya in 2017 may have reduced the flow of migrants across the Mediterranean by approximately 85 per cent, but there were serious human rights concerns. Now, thousands of desperate people are having their hopes raised, only to be dashed as they come up against violence on the ramparts of "Fortress Europe".

Ceasefire in Syria

In this chaotic state of affairs, Turkish President Erdogan met with Russian President Vladimir Putin to nail down a ceasefire in Idlib. After six hours of intense negotiations on March 5 in Moscow, the parties signed a joint declaration to envisage establishing an immediate cease-fire in the Idlib de-escalation zone, a security buffer zone to the north and south from the M4 highway and the start of Turkey-Russia joint patrols to commence on March 15. Likewise, the countries' leaders have reaffirmed their belief in the necessity to preserve the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Syria while considering its division into zones of influence unacceptable.

Erdogan can't really afford to host any more refugees, either financially or politically. This ceasefire buys him some time and eases the immediate threat of another million people crossing the border into Turkey, but it does not provide a permanent solution to the Idlib mayhem.

The deal buys Europe time as well, as Erdogan will refrain from pushing more refugees up against Europe's borders. Ceasefire deal or no, Erdogan wants three things from Europe. First, he wants Brussels to lean on Russia to stop its support of Assad troops in Idlib. Second, he wants the E.U. to start playing a more active role in helping internally displaced people in Syria (primarily to keep them from coming into Turkey). Third, he wants more money from the E.U. to deal with Syrian refugees in both Syria and Turkey.

But Europe has no interest mixing it up with Putin over Syria, where it's become clear Russia's president is far more committed to driving the final outcome there than the Europeans are. European member states are also maximally divided on whether to impose more sanctions on Russia (many of whom rely significantly on trade with Russia), making increased sanctions on Russia over its actions in Syria a non-starter.

However, Europe does want to avoid a repeat of its last immigration crisis, so it's likely Brussels will hand more funds over to Turkey to manage refugee flows... if Turkey agrees to uphold the migration deal (and if they can agree amongst themselves the funding sources during already-

Some Unpleasant Facts

As of February 2020, there are 3.5 million documented Syrians living in Turkey. If you consider the undocumented Syrians in Turkey and internally displaced Syrians living in the Turkish-controlled regions on the Syrian side of the 822-km border, the number of Syrians living under some kind of Turkish protection is 9.5 million. Note that the number of Syrians living in areas controlled by President Bashar Al Assad of Syria is substantially lower than this figure. On the opposite side of the Aegean, there are officially 73,569 Syrian migrants living in Greece as of January 2020. This is thanks to the EU-Turkey migration deal. Now I come to the part with the unpleasant arithmetic. Turkey has received a total of 3.2 billion euros as EU financial aid so far. Greece on the other hand, has received 2.77 billion to deal with the same problem, as of March 2020. What does that mean? It means that EU financial aid per refugee jumps more than 41 times when a Syrian migrant passes the Maritsa river. If a Syrian refugee or an internally displaced person stays in Turkey, the EU pays around 900 euros for his or her care. Note that this declines to around 400 euros, if you consider IDPs and Turkish-controlled territories in Syria. EU aid per refugee jumps to 37,651 euros, if this person crosses the Maritsa.



tense budget negotiations). Brussels is also willing to work with Turkey on dealing with Idlib refugees, but is less inclined to help the refugees Turkey has caused by launching offensives against the Kurds in Syria.

Conclusion

The events of the past few days are likely to provide a brief reprieve for both Turkey and Europe from more refugees, but one that is unlikely to last. And this

respite comes at the cost of officially giving Putin the power to determine what happens in Idlib, and hence Syria. Keep an eye out for warming weather, too—as the weather improves to make crossings by sea easier and human smugglers are able to restock the supplies they need to resume operations, migration problems are likely to rear their head again.

As a new phase in the war has already begun, a ceasefire in Idlib should serve as a cue for this shift. Starting with Idlib, European leaders must start thinking creatively about stabilisation and reconstruction in war-torn Syria – and, yes, they must do so before the war is even over. ■

As coronavirus continues to spread across the globe, China, on March 19, reported no new locally-transmitted cases for the first time since January in the city of Wuhan, the original epicentre of the COVID-19 outbreak. In February, confirmed cases were increasing in the city and surrounding region by thousands a day. This milestone makes Wuhan something of a global case study, as the coronavirus pandemic has caused states of emergency on several other continents. This has been possible only due to a stringent lockdown strategy which Europe and North American countries are mulling to follow with travel bans and other relief measures. While many have labelled the Wuhan-style lockdown of millions of people as "draconian", others believe it contributed to containing the virus in the country.

W

Wuhan, the epicentre of China's novel coronavirus outbreak, had no new infections reported on March 19. Indeed, except for 34 imported cases, the entire country saw no increase in the number of infections. A new dawn has arrived after the long, dark night of the epidemic.

When China announced it was shutting down Wuhan, the centre of the coronavirus outbreak, in a bid to prevent further spread of the disease, the world was stunned and experts sceptical. Beijing's decision was a vast experiment, epidemiologists warned, that might not work despite its huge human and economic cost. Quarantine had never been tried on such an enormous scale in the modern world.

Wuhan alone has a population of 11 million, and tens of millions more people in nearby cities were soon brought under lockdown as well, as the scale of the crisis became apparent. Questions about the policy lingered for weeks. But nearly two months on, Beijing's approach is vindicated. President Xi Jin Ping's, calling the virus a "major test" of China's governance system, hurled the country's 1.4 billion people into an antiviral mobilization reminiscent of a Mao-style mass crusade not seen in decades.

Countries with their own exponentially-growing outbreaks are imposing similar measures, from Italy and Spain to Germany and California, though none are as strict as those in Wuhan. Starting within hours of the announcement, transport into and out of the city was closed, with no exceptions even for personal and medical emergencies. Schools and universities were already on holiday, but that was extended indefinitely. All shops shut except those selling food or medicine. Private vehicles were barred from the roads without special permission, and most public transport stopped, leaving the streets empty and silent. Neighbourhood committees enforced quarantines. Train stations blocked people from entering cities if they could not prove they lived or worked there. In the countryside, villages barricaded themselves with vehicles, tents and other makeshift barriers.

Initially, people were allowed out of their homes, but restrictions soon tightened. Some areas limited outings to one family member every two days to buy necessities. Others barred residents from leaving, requiring them to order in food and other supplies from couriers. Later, the policy became even more aggressive, with officials going door to door for health checks, and forcing anyone ill into isolation.

Controls were stepped up elsewhere across China soon after Wuhan was locked down, in part because of fears that people racing to escape the city before it was closed off could have turbo-charged the spread of Covid-19. Most buildings had security guards

China's Coronavirus Lockdown Strategy



INTERNATIONAL



China that acted early and decisively have so far managed to contain the disease through thorough screening, testing and contact tracing programmes, as well as bringing in early social distancing. But China has not entirely relaxed its guard yet. Wuhan is still largely in lockdown, though some people are being allowed back to work, and there are still strict controls nationwide, for fear the virus might roar back, the number of imported cases is growing. Many restaurants and shops require patrons to have

monitoring temperatures of anyone going in. Residential compounds were closed to all but their inhabitants. Masks became ubiquitous across the country, and in many places required; the state-owned tabloid Global Times even shared footage of authorities using drones to scold people in Inner Mongolia - more than 1,000km from Wuhan - who had gone out without masks. Wuhan-style measures are not a requirement to contain the disease. Countries with strong links to



China and global health governance

The novel coronavirus epidemic has again put global health governance under the spotlight. The epidemic, along with other outbreaks in recent years, such as the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), the Ebola virus and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), have revealed the huge threat infectious diseases pose to humankind and has demonstrated the urgency of strengthening global health governance. China's success in containing the novel coronavirus demonstrates its potential to further contribute to global health affairs. How, then, can China play a bigger role in global health governance?

First, it should formulate its own strategy of global health governance. A country's strategy for global health governance is the guidebook for it to participate in global health affairs, a common practice for major countries in the world. China should make a global health governance strategy that suits its international status. To have such a strategy, China should first incorporate health security into its national security strategy, something which has not been given due attention. Moreover, the strategy should have diversified funding sources, and enable mutual assistance and experience sharing.

Second, China should increase its influence in global health affairs. As a developing country, China has long been a beneficiary of international medical assistance, and a follower of established rules and frameworks in global health governance. This sort of role is no longer deemed suitable to China's growing economic strength, improving healthcare services and rising global status. In this context, it is an obligation for China to deeply engage in global health governance and increase its influence. To this end, China should actively join all kinds of global health bodies and forums, and make its voice heard while playing the role of coordinator in international

health organizations.

Third, it should promote reform of the global health governance system and mechanism. International organizations, such as the World Health Organization, have played a key role in coordinating global efforts in fighting the novel coronavirus pandemic. However, some problems remain in the current global health governance system as it has not been able to respond to the continually aggravating and complicated situation of the pandemic. These organizations lack authority, and coordination among participants is poor. The governance mechanism should be reformed to solve the problems.

Fourth, China should strengthen cooperation with other participants in global health affairs. In addition to international organizations such as the WHO and the United Nations, the bodies that take part in global health governance also include multilateral mechanisms, non-governmental organizations, foundations, private sectors and civil organizations. These participants have diversified ways to engage in global health governance. China should collaborate further with them, through official or civil ways, thus better integrating itself with the global system.

Fifth, China should promote its successful experience. China's efforts in fighting the novel coronavirus have set an example for the rest of the world. To promote its experience, China should introduce its healthcare system to other countries, especially developing nations; it should also export its medical expertise, such as traditional Chinese medicine. Of course, China's economic development and medical services still lag behind those of developed nations, so it should follow an active, but moderate, pattern in contributing to global health governance.

their temperatures checked and their information logged before entering, or there are quotas for entry. Some buildings will only let in those who have got the go-ahead from software called "Health code" that gives individuals one of three colours, based on their recent travel history.

Beijing's sledgehammer approach — seen by many as an extreme experiment unprecedented in size and scope — worked to quickly lower the number of infections. As governments in Italy, the United States and elsewhere grapple with the pandemic, China has hailed its success as evidence of what can be achieved when a vast, top-down bureaucracy that brooks no dissent is mobilized in pursuit of a single target.

Even as the immediate threat of the virus has diminished in China, the party has continued to push hard to control what is said about itself. As China shifts away from its wartime footing, experts say the priority should be to broaden testing in communities and monitoring travelers coming into the country. As life in China returns to a semblance of normality, many people are moving on. Even those who were quick to criticize the government's initial mismanagement of the outbreak have become more forgiving in recent days as they have seen governments in the United States and Europe fumble responses to their own outbreaks.

Lessons to be learned

Globalization and rapid transportation systems have enabled the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus around the world. While the epidemic is a manifestation of mega trends such as globalization and hyper connectivity, it should not be seen as fatal. It should galvanize the world to act and raise ambitions by not only being better prepared for the next one but also being able to prevent it from happening.

The world is entering a new epidemic era. There will be a before and after the novel coronavirus epidemic. And, as simple as it may sound, prevention and preparedness remain the golden standard for preventing such infectious diseases to occur, and a lot still needs to be done to improve national and global preparedness for disease emergencies. That requires greater investment in national healthcare systems in low-income countries and reinforcing public health systems in developed countries

CHINA

Coronaviruses

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause not only the common cold but also more serious respiratory illnesses

2019-nCoV OUTBREAK

December 31, 2019

Symptoms

- Incubation period: 1-14 days
- Fever
- Difficult breathing
- Impaired liver and kidney function
- Kidney failure
- Severe cough
- Pneumonia

A novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was identified as the source of the illnesses on January 7, with the infection traced to a Wuhan seafood market that also sold live animals



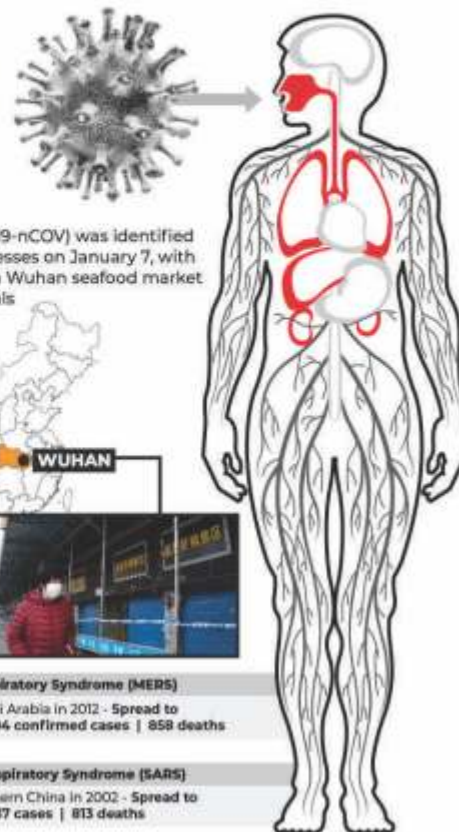
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)

Identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012 - Spread to 27 countries, 2,494 confirmed cases | 858 deaths



Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

Emerged in southern China in 2002 - Spread to 30 countries, 8,437 cases | 813 deaths

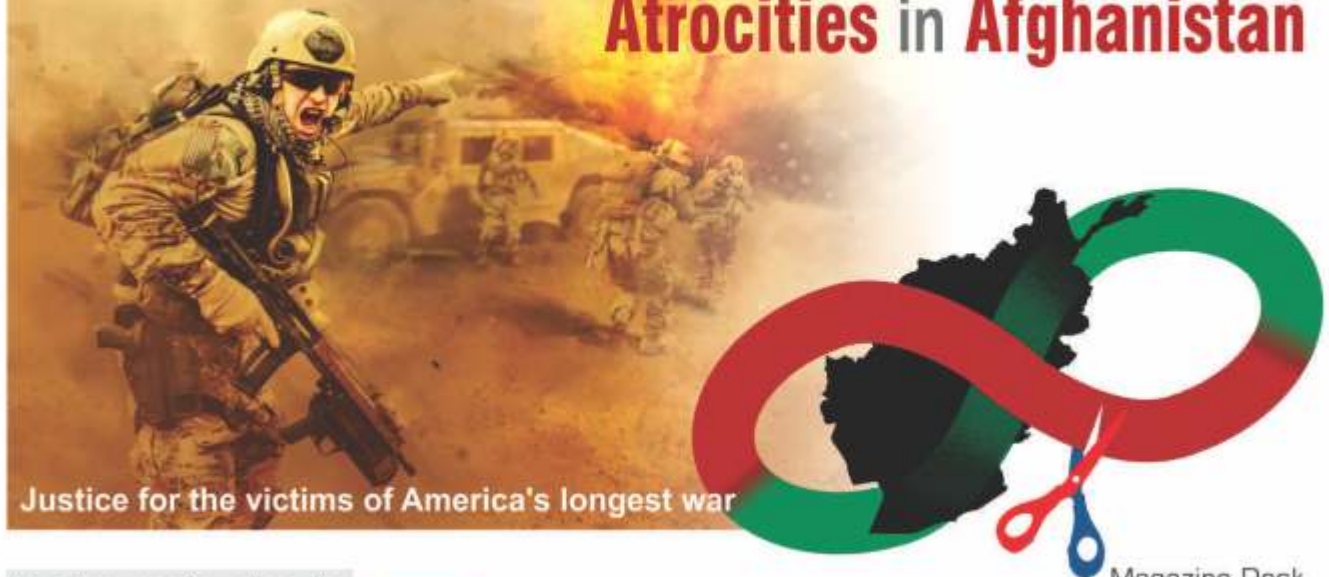


that are threatened by a pure economic logic. Investment in prevention and response systems at local level remains the key and will require massive financial investment and the contribution of the private sector.

Moreover, since 70 percent of emerging infectious diseases such as the novel coronavirus are of animal origin, their control relies on the "integrative effort of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally to attain optimal health for people, animals, and the environment," as the American Veterinary Medical Association suggests.

We indeed need to innovate and leverage the potential of technology to research vaccine technologies and treatments. New tools made available by artificial intelligence and big data are increasingly used to solve complex problems, including in the public health sector. For example, algorithms can be used to process big volumes of data and build models to solve complex problems. They can help improve early warning systems (global and national), track viruses, and assist in producing vaccines and drugs in a reduced amount of time. Their potential is immense and can be further harnessed. China has already been demonstrating their potential in its fight against the novel coronavirus, as it has been using drones and developing apps and computer systems to identify people at risk of contracting and transmitting the virus due to their travel history. ■

The ICC's Probe into Atrocities in Afghanistan



In a long overdue ruling, the International Criminal Court (ICC), on March 05, ruled that prosecutors can open an official inquiry into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Afghanistan by the Taliban militants, the US troops and government forces. The decision, which came four days after the US and the Taliban armed group signed a peace deal in Doha, Qatar, overturns a lower court decision and opens the way for prosecutor Fatou Bensouda to launch a full investigation, despite US government opposition. The probe will be led by ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, who made the request to the ICC's Pre-Trial Chamber in November 2017. Although the United States is not a member of the Hague-based court, the decision has sparked a strong rebuke from US officials, who denounce what they call a "renegade" court. "This is a truly breathtaking action by an unaccountable political institution, masquerading as a legal body," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said.

In what is being termed as an unprecedented move, the Hague-based Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has ruled that the court's prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, can finally proceed—following a preliminary examination of more than a decade—with a formal investigation into atrocities allegedly committed during the armed conflict in Afghanistan. "The Appeals Chamber found that the Prosecutor is authorised to investigate...the crimes alleged to have been committed on the territory of Afghanistan since 1 May 2003," the ICC said in a statement, "as well as other alleged crimes that have a nexus to the armed conflict in Afghanistan and are sufficiently linked to the situation in Afghanistan and were committed on the territory of other States Parties."

The ICC judges also approved that the scope of the investigation should include CIA black sites operated in Poland, Lithuania, and Romania, where detainees were taken. The decision will allow ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda to examine the actions of U.S. armed forces and members of the CIA, the Taliban insurgency, Afghan government security forces and other armed groups operating in Afghanistan.

Background

A 2016 ICC report focusing on Afghan hostilities concluded there was a reasonable basis to believe that the U.S. military, Afghan government and the Taliban committed war crimes. Since 20 November 2017, Prosecutor Bensouda has been seeking a formal investigation into the alleged crimes. She alleged while arguing before the judges last year that members of the US military and intelligence agencies "committed acts of torture, cruel treatment, outrages upon personal dignity, rape and sexual violence against conflict-related detainees in Afghanistan and other locations, principally in the 2003-2004 period." However, the Pre-Trial Chamber II, rejected Bensouda's request, arguing that the odds of success were low. On 12 April 2019, the Chamber ruled: "In summary, the Chamber believes that, notwithstanding the fact all the relevant requirements are met as regards both jurisdiction and admissibility, the current circumstances of the situation in Afghanistan are such as to make the prospects for a successful investigation and prosecution extremely limited. Accordingly, it is unlikely that pursuing an investigation would result in meeting the objectives listed by the victims favouring the investigation, or otherwise positively contributing to it. It

Magazine Desk

is worth recalling that only victims of specific cases brought before the Court could ever have the opportunity of playing a meaningful role in as participants in the relevant proceedings; in the absence of any such cases, this meaningful role will never materialise in spite of the investigation having been authorised; victims' expectations will not go beyond little more than aspirations. This, far from honouring the victims' wishes and aspiration that justice be done, would result in creating frustration and possibly hostility vis-à-vis the Court and therefore negatively impact its very ability to pursue credibly the objectives it was created to serve."

What did the Appeals Chamber decide? The recent judgment reversed that decision. The five appeals judges—from Canada, Peru, Poland, Uganda, and the United Kingdom—rejected the lower chamber's view that an investigation of the Afghanistan situation would not serve



"the interests of justice." The Appeals Chamber concluded that the governing treaty of the ICC, the Rome Statute, does not authorize the Pretrial Chamber to use its discretion to determine "the interests of justice" when the prosecutor seeks approval for an investigation. The judges ruled that there is a reasonable factual basis to proceed and that potential cases do fall within the ICC's jurisdiction. Additionally, the Appeals Chamber broadened the prosecutor's scope of investigation to include criminal acts she might

10 Things you need to know about International Criminal Court

1. The International Criminal Court, established in 2002, seeks to hold to account those guilty of some of the world's worst crimes.
 2. The ICC's founding treaty was adopted by the UN General Assembly at a conference in Rome in July 1998. After being ratified by more than sixty countries, the Rome Statute entered into force on July 1, 2002.
 3. There are 122 countries party to the Rome Statute.
 4. Some forty countries never signed the treaty, including China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.
 5. Several dozen others signed the statute, but their legislatures never ratified it. These include Egypt, Iran, Israel, Russia, Sudan, Syria, and the United States.
 6. Two countries have withdrawn from the ICC: Burundi left in 2017, and the Philippines in 2019. Gambia and South Africa notified the United Nations in 2016 that they intended to exit the treaty, but they later reversed course.
 7. The ICC is based in The Hague, a city in the Netherlands that hosts many international institutions, and has field offices in several countries.
 8. The court carries out its investigative work through the office of the prosecutor, led since 2012 by Fatou Bensouda, a lawyer from Gambia.
 9. The court has eighteen judges, each from a different member country and elected by the member states, and the judiciary must include representatives of each of the United Nations' five regions.
 10. The court has jurisdiction over four categories of crimes under international law:
 - a. genocide, or the intent to destroy in whole or in part a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group;
 - b. war crimes, or grave breaches of the laws of war, which include the Geneva Conventions' prohibitions on torture and attacks on civilian targets, such as hospitals or schools;
 - c. crimes against humanity, or violations committed as part of large-scale attacks against civilian populations, including murder, rape, imprisonment, slavery, and torture; and
 - d. crimes of aggression, or the use or threat of armed force by a state against the territorial integrity, sovereignty, or political independence of another state, or violations of the UN Charter.
- Note:** The ICC differs from the International Court of Justice—the top UN court, which settles disputes between states and is also located in The Hague—in that it prosecutes individuals.

discover while further investigating the Afghanistan situation.

What will Ms. Bensouda investigate, and how?

Specifically, Ms. Bensouda will be seeking to investigate crimes against humanity and war crimes by the Taliban and their affiliated Haqqani Network; war crimes by the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and in particular, members of the National Directorate for Security (NDS) and the Afghan National Police (ANP).

The prosecutor's investigation centers



on alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes committed by the Taliban and affiliated armed groups as well as by Afghan National Security Forces in Afghanistan since May 1, 2003, when that country joined the ICC.

The prosecutor has focused on the Taliban's crimes against humanity of murder, imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty, and persecution against identifiable groups of civilians, including on political and gender grounds. Taliban actions are believed to have resulted in tens of thousands of civilian casualties, and the prosecutor will seek to identify Taliban leaders who orchestrated the killing and wounding of so many civilians.

The Afghan security forces are being investigated for several war crimes against hundreds of civilians: torture and cruel treatment; outrages upon personal dignity, such as humiliating and dehumanizing abuses; and sexual violence.

The US armed forces and CIA are now under investigation for war crimes against around eighty victims who allegedly suffered torture and cruel

treatment, outrages upon personal dignity, and rape and other forms of sexual violence. There are more than fifty victims of such crimes allegedly committed by the U.S. military in Afghanistan in 2003-04. Another twenty-four people detained during the conflict claim to be victims of such alleged crimes by the CIA not only in Afghanistan but at CIA "black sites"—secret locations where covert actions, such as interrogations, can take place—in Lithuania, Poland, and Romania, again primarily in 2003-04 but in some cases stretching back to mid-2002. For the purposes of its investigation, the ICC Prosecutor can request that the court's judges issue summons to appear or arrest warrants "no matter who the perpetrator", for alleged atrocity crimes committed in connection with the Situation in Afghanistan, her Office said.

Can an ICC investigation against US forces made?

The United States is not a state party to the Rome Statute—signed the Rome Statute on December 31, 2000, at the end of the Bill Clinton administration. But the Senate never ratified the treaty due to the strong opposition by the George W. Bush administration. However, the ICC's jurisdiction is triggered when genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes occur on the territory of an ICC member state or when a national of a state party commits such a crime. According to a 2014 report by the US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which the prosecutor draws upon, US military and intelligence personnel committed torture on Afghan territory as well as on the territory of other ties to the Rome Statute—namely Lithuania, Poland, and Romania—in regard to victims associated with the Afghan conflict. The prosecutor relied on open-source information describing U.S. efforts to investigate crimes allegedly committed by U.S. personnel in connection with the Afghanistan situation and found those efforts, or the lack thereof, unconvincing. The U.S. government argues that nonparty state nationals do not fall under the ICC's jurisdiction even if they commit

atrocity crimes on the territory of a state party, such as Afghanistan or the three European nations. But that issue was not on appeal and therefore the Appeals Chamber did not adjudicate arguments challenging coverage of U.S. nationals. The Pretrial Chamber had ruled that U.S. nationals responsible for such crimes are subject to the court's jurisdiction under these circumstances.

The ICC focuses on crimes by leadership, not actions taken by mid- and

low-level forces or personnel, so the likely targets of investigation will be Taliban leaders, Afghan government and military leaders, and top U.S. officials who planned or authorized the alleged crimes under the George W. Bush administration.

However, since the United States is not a member of the ICC, Washington will be under no legal obligation to cooperate with any investigation by the court. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has already made it clear that Washington will not cooperate. Without such cooperation, particularly regarding former officials who reside in the United States and are thus outside

the reach of ICC arrest warrants (unless they travel to ICC states), it could be very difficult for the prosecutor to establish sufficient evidence to charge and then arrest U.S. suspects.

Comment

The International Criminal Court has long been criticised for spending far too much of its time looking at the alleged crimes of smaller - often African - nations and shying away from taking cases involving major world players.

So to this extent its investigation into alleged war crimes in Afghanistan is an important moment.

Its remit is to look at the behaviour of the Taliban, the Afghan Government's forces and of course the Americans. And therein lies the problem. The United States is not a party to the ICC and is unlikely to co-operate with it. More generally Afghanistan is still far from being at peace. There will be those who see some kind of judicial process to hold wrong-doers to account as being an essential part of reconciliation in the country. But the practical problems facing any ICC mission may be insurmountable. ■



Everything to know about "convalescent plasma treatment"



ANKARA YILDIRIM
BEYAZIT UNIVERSITY,
MEDICAL FACULTY

WORLD APHERESIS
ASSOCIATION, PRESIDENT



PROF. DR
FEVZI ALTUNTAS

"Apheresis therapy can be widely **beneficial** in treating patients with COVID-19"

"I invite everyone recovering from this disease to become a **volunteer plasma donor**. This is not only a social responsibility but a **national duty**. Our examples of social solidarity such as plasma donation are crucial to **overcoming this fight together healthfully**."

WHAT IS APHERESIS?

Apheresis is an area of scientific study that deals with the **processing blood outside of the body** to cure a disease, obtain a desired blood component, as well as **stem cell or cellular therapy products**

WHAT IS CONVALESCENT PLASMA THERAPY?

This passive antibody therapy seeks to **transfer antibodies to a sick person** to protect from and treat the disease

The aim of the therapy is to take antibodies from the blood of a person **who has recovered from a virus and transfer them to a sick person**

In this way, it is expected that the **virus will be neutralized**

PROCESS OF THERAPY

All donors must be **diagnosed with COVID-19**

Donors should have **no complaints** for at least **14 days after recovery**

Legally, people between the ages of **18-60 can be donors**

The immunized plasma is collected from **individuals who meet these criteria** and stored in blood banks

HOW IS PLASMA COLLECTED?



Apheresis takes an average of **60-90 minutes**



Approximately **200-600 cc** of plasma are collected with apheresis devices



Donors are kept under monitoring for **15 minutes** after the transaction is complete



Appointments for **new plasma donation** are made with the consent of the donor

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE COLLECTED PLASMA?



The **Turkish Red Crescent**, also known as Kızılay, **barcodes** the collected plasma



Barcoded plasma is stored at **minus 18-25C** or below in a separate storage cabinet



Convalescent plasma is administered to severe and critical **COVID-19 patients**



200-400 ml of convalescent plasma are given to the selected patients



CRIMINAL LAW AND THE PUNJAB SENTENCING ACT, 2019

In November last year, the provincial assembly of Punjab passed the Punjab Sentencing Bill, 2019, which is meant to facilitate courts in awarding punishments to criminals as per the intensity and nature of the crime. Moved by the provincial Law Minister, the bill gives a new shape to the criminal justice system in Punjab as it demands from courts to mention reasons for awarding longer or shorter imprisonments in criminal cases. The bill divided sentences into four categories while keeping in view the nature, intensity of the offence and different aspects have been considered while awarding punishments to the criminals. In the instant write-up, the author has discussed various aspects of the law:

Kamran Adil

Constitutionality of Criminal Law

Modern states claim to assert their monopoly over lawful use of force within their jurisdiction through criminal law; in this sense, criminal law enables states to maintain their internal national security and to keep order in the society. Historically, Pakistan's criminal law has not been rewritten. Colonial legal codes in the form of Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (general criminal law), and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (general criminal procedure), remained applicable to this day perpetuating the impression that the subject of criminal law is federal in nature. This is far from the truth. The constitutional record shows that, in its original scheme, the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, kept the criminal law, criminal procedure and evidence on Concurrent Legislative List (CLL) permitting both the federal and provincial legislatures to legislate on the subjects. Later on, after the introduction of the Eighteenth Constitutional Amendment to the Constitution in 2010, despite the abolition of the CLL, the three subjects were preserved for concurrent legislation by both the federation and the provinces (Articles 142 and 143). The point, however, was not so interpreted by the provinces that started dealing the criminal law, criminal procedure and evidence as their exclusive domains. Such treatment of the criminal law has far-reaching effects as it not only

affects the working of the criminal justice system, but also has implications for criminal laws that are used by the law-enforcement agencies for national security such as the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.

Criminal Law and Sentencing

Sentencing and criminal law and procedure are closely related. To appreciate their relationship, it would be appropriate to examine the concept of sentencing.

Black's Law Dictionary defines sentencing as 'the judicial determination of the penalty of a crime'. It has also been explained as the 'apex' of the judicial process. It is the end product of the whole of the criminal justice system. In Pakistan, debates on the severity of punishments have been part of the public discourse without taking into consideration the law related to sentencing. Practically, the punishment prescribed by the law is applied by the judge as per his/her own discretion, and by doing so, the chances of legislative intent being ignored or diluted cannot be ruled

out. The sentencing has been introduced in two formats i.e. through guidelines and through legislation. In Pakistan, the law of sentencing is stated in Section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, where a convict under the age of twenty-one years can be released on probation, instead of being imprisoned. The law, however, is seldom put to practice. In addition, the High



Court Rules and Order (Part A, Chapter 19, Volume III) provides for guidelines on sentencing linking it to variety of considerations such as 'the motive of crime, its gravity, the character of the offender, his age, antecedents ... aggravating circumstances' and previous convictions. The High Court Rules and Order (being a delegated legislation) also remained dormant in its application.

The Punjab Sentencing Act, 2019

To the already available legal provisions and without repealing or reconciling with them, a new law titled as the Punjab Sentencing Act, 2019 has been enacted. The law is first of its kind as it is dedicated to the subject. It has spelled out the following purposes of sentencing (Section 4):

- a. punishment of offenders;
- b. reduction of crime including reduction of deterrence;
- c. reform and rehabilitation of offenders;
- d. protection of the public; and
- e. making of reparation by offenders to persons affected by their offences.

It may be noted that purpose (e) stated above may fortify the much-criticized compounding regime that has resulted in privatization of criminal law as a matter between private persons. The courts are required to consider the above-stated purposes along with the lists of aggravating and mitigating factors before determining the sentence of an offender. The lists of aggravating and mitigating factors are long and increase the discretion of judges instead of structuring it. In case of offenders against children additional aggravating grounds have been numerated in the law (Section 8). In the same manner, the offenders involved in religious and terrorism cases are also to be sentenced harshly by providing for additional aggravating grounds in such cases (Sections 9 and 10). The law applies only in cases where the offences are punishable with 'a time range imprisonment' and are not coupled with capital punishment (Sections 3 and 4). Though seasoned judges always provide for the reasons of their determination of sentences, the law, for the first time, obliges judges by law to state the reasons for determination of sentencing and requires them to use a grid of sentencing zones against range of punishments (Section 13). The Schedule to the law provides four gradual zones (A, B, C and D) against seven ranges of punishment. It is to be seen how the two dimensional sentencing grid will work in practice as the non-compliance with the law has no legal conse-

quences for the judges. The law also provides for a Sentencing Council, an executive body 'develop and issue' guidelines (Section 21).

Concluding Remarks

The federation and the provinces can legislate in domains of the criminal law, procedure and evidence. In practice, however, the constitutional scheme is not being followed and each province is trying to carve out its own criminal law without taking into account full scope of Articles 142 and 143 of the Constitution of Pakistan. Through the Punjab Sentencing Act, 2019, however, an attempt has been made to ensure that minimum punishments are determined by the courts in appropriate cases. It may, however, be noted that without the cooperation of the Federation and the Provinces, the force of the criminal law and procedure will be limited as the criminal justice system crisscrosses the provincial and federal structure in an interdependent manner. Pakistan's leadership of the justice sector may be urged to take



wisdom from the dual sovereignty doctrine of the US that treats both the Federation and the States as sovereigns when it comes to enforcing criminal laws of the country. In the latest case of *Gamble v. the United States* (2018), the Supreme Court of the United States observed:

"...Yes, our Constitution rests on the principle that the people are sovereign, but that does not mean that they have conferred all the attributes of sovereignty on a single government. Instead, the people, by adopting the Constitution, 'split the atom of sovereignty.'"

May be, it's time for Pakistan to consider 'splitting the atom of sovereignty' between the Federation and the Provinces.■

*The author is an independent researcher and has done his BCL from the University of Oxford.
Email: kamranadilps@gmail.com*

Population growth, climate change, economic and agricultural expansion and deforestation are all placing greater pressures on the world's limited supplies of water. With more than half the world's population likely to live in water-scarce areas by 2050 and 40 per cent dependent on transboundary water, there is a growing threat that unless consolidated efforts to share rivers, lakes and aquifers that cross national boundaries are made, a growing risk of conflict as global water supplies remains high. At present fewer than one in three of the world's transboundary rivers and lake basins and just nine of the 350 aquifers that straddle more than one country have cross-border management systems in place, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit. In case of South Asia, water shortages, exacerbated by climate change and population growth, could lead to increased conflicts. In this context, Pakistan is in dire straits as two of its neighbours, India and Afghanistan, have colluded to stop flow of water from their respective territories into Pakistan. So, there is an urgent need to develop a regional mechanism to make 'transboundary water resource management an instrument for cooperation rather than conflict.

W

ater is a basic human right but the population explosion, technological boom and high demand for water has led to a global water shortage that is endangering millions around the world. Pakistan is especially in trouble as both its eastern and western neighbours being hostile to the country are putting in collaborative efforts to create an acute water crisis in Pakistan. On the eastern side, Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi, has persistently threatened to block the flow of water from India into Pakistan despite the fact that both countries have signed the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960. On the western side, Afghanistan is pushing, in collaboration of India, to build dams to store and regulate water which is an indirect blow to Pakistan. This is a critical situation that demands prudence and all-out efforts on the part of Pakistan authorities. Hence, there is a pressing need to open diplomatic channels for 'hydro diplomacy' so as to address water management issues among India, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Introduction

Roughly two-thirds of the 263 transboundary lake and river basins that cover almost half the Earth's surface, and are home to about 40 percent of the world's population, do not have a cooperative management framework. As many as 145 States have territory in these basins, and 30 countries lie entirely within them. There are approximately 300 transboundary aquifers, helping to serve the 2 billion people who depend on groundwater. Cooperation is essential, especially in areas vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and where water is already scarce. Population growth, socio-economic development, and mismanagement of existing water supplies across the world, are expected to combine with climate change threats to challenge the ability of many countries, some already resource-stressed, to meet their domestic water needs. This can threaten human security, food security, national security, and regional stability. Across the world, increasing threats to the available supply of water can disrupt food security as the greatest consumer of water is the agricultural sector.

In the face of these threats, Pakistan and its neighbours need to strengthen water management on the two transboundary river basins—Indus and Kabul. Both the river basins are critical for the food, energy and human security needs of the countries' population. While the Indus River shared with India is governed under the

Water Disputes with India and Afghanistan



Pakistan needs hydro diplomacy

Indus Waters Treaty, 1960, the Kabul River has no cooperative arrangement between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Even the treaty with India on water-sharing overlooks the many vulnerabilities of the Indus Basin - including climate change, environmental flow management and socio-economic development. The Indus is the world's most vulnerable water tower owing to high dependence downstream and greater impact of climate change, socio-economic development and associated rises in water use, and geopolitical instability. Management of transboundary water upstream and downstream also holds true for provincial boundaries within Pakistan.

Scenario with Afghanistan



When it comes to Afghanistan, we find that the country is currently experiencing a 60 per cent drop in the rain and snowfall needed for food production. The rapid expansion of Kabul's population, extreme drought conditions across the country and the specter of climate change is also said to have exacerbated the need for new water infrastructure. A 2017 study by Afghan, German, and Finnish universities stresses that Afghanistan desperately needs better water infrastructure and water management. Afghanistan is in the process to construct the Shahtoot Dam on Maidan River, an upper tributary of Kabul River in the Chahar Asiali district of Kabul Province. This dam will hold 146 million cubic meters of potable water for two million Kabul residents and irrigate 4,000 hectares of land. It will also provide drinking water for a new city on the outskirts of Kabul called Deh Sabz. But building dams on the Kabul River is said to be a politically complicated matter; the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region is said to be defined by its complex maze of transboundary rivers and there is no legal framework in place to avoid major conflict between the nations. And the development is said to be fueling fears downstream in Pakistan that the Shahtoot Dam which is being funded and built by India will alter the flow of the Kabul River and reduce the water flows into Pakistan that could severely

limit the country's future access to water. The Pakistani media has already reported that there could be a 16 to 17 per cent drop in water flow after the completion of the Shahtoot Dam and other planned dams. According to the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations' 2011 report on water security in Central Asia, "Providing the right support by India (while constructing the Shahtoot dam) can have a tremendous stabilizing influence, but providing the wrong support can spell disaster by agitating neighboring countries."

Shahtoot Dam and Indo-Afghan Nexus

Beyond reducing water flow to Pakistan, the Shahtoot Dam has a unique capacity to escalate tensions in the region thanks to its funding from India. India has made

The wars of the twenty-first century will be fought over water.

Jamali Serageldin



major investments in Afghanistan's infrastructure in recent years—from highway construction to repair of government buildings and dams damaged by conflict. Since 2001, India has pledged about \$2 billion total in development projects in Afghanistan. And while Afghan analysts have made the case that the dam is critical to surviving future water shortages in Afghanistan, Pakistani officials in Islamabad are casting India's investment in a harsher light, contending that the dam is merely the latest move in India's grand plan to strangle Pakistan's limited water supply. Because Pakistan has failed to build enough hydropower infrastructure at home, some Pakistanis fear it might have to buy electricity from Afghanistan in the future.

NATIONAL

State of affairs in India

Last year, many Indian states faced severe water scarcity. The situation deteriorated further as we witnessed the second driest pre-monsoon season in the last 65 years. According to the Drought Early Warning System (DEWS), the problem is worrying as the drought-like situation covers more than 44 percent geographic area, an increase of 11 percentage points over a year ago. In a recent report, India's leading business daily, 'The Hindu BusinessLine', quoted India's Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Ministry of Science and Technology as saying they have "found a significant increasing trend in the intensity and areal coverage of moderate droughts over India in recent decades". It added that "more intense droughts have been observed over North and Northwest India and neighbouring Central India".

Since 2015, drought has become more widespread in India – with the exception of 2017. The spell of drought last year emptied hundreds of villages across different provinces as people fled extremely high temperatures abandoning homes in search of water and solace from the scorching sun. The acute water shortages have destroyed agriculture-based livelihoods as crops like cotton, maize, soya, pulses, and groundnuts have withered devastating local economies. In the past, crop failures and mounting debts have pushed hundreds of thousands of farmers to commit suicide, a trend that has seen a phenomenal increase in the last decade.

The politics of India and Pakistan adds yet another, and potent, twist to the growing water crisis in the region. The increasing mutual trust deficit and growing rhetoric of the Indian leadership are fuelling speculations about a future 'water war' with Pakistan.

Case of Pakistan

In Pakistan, the situation is no different. Drought has become a frequent phenomenon with the drought of 1998-2002 considered the worst in the country's history. The express lack of any serious official planning coupled with

**What is Water Diplomacy?**

Water diplomacy can be defined as the use of diplomatic instruments to existing or emerging disagreements and conflicts over shared water resources with the aim to solve or mitigate those for the sake of cooperation, regional stability, and peace.

Water diplomacy is about applying diplomatic instruments, not technical ones. Water diplomacy's diplomatic instruments may include negotiations, dispute-resolution mechanisms, the establishment of consultation platforms, and the organization of joint fact-finding missions. Technical instruments—such as establishing basin-wide management plans or joint monitoring networks—are not part of water diplomacy. While diplomatic and technical instruments often build on each other and can be directly linked, consistently defining water diplomacy merits this strict differentiation as will become clear later on.

Water diplomacy focuses on disagreements and conflicts. Disagreements and conflicts are not narrowly defined as official, full-fledged

disputes being fought with diplomacy, or even violence. Instead conflicts include situations in which user groups (nationally or internationally) have competing uses for a scarce resource that can lead to disagreements that destabilize communities, countries or regions. Conflicts can relate to different understandings of whether a watercourse should be developed for unilateral economic gains or for mutual benefit; an issue particularly pertinent in shared water basins, for instance. Ideally, such disagreements are addressed before they turn into conflicts, thus making much of water diplomacy preventive diplomacy.

Water diplomacy has the ultimate goal of ensuring regional cooperation, stability, and peace. It is much more than water resource management. Water diplomacy uses water resources as a means of contribute to the broader goals of peace and stability through diplomatic engagement and cooperation.

corruption, uncontrolled human population, urbanisation, and absence of water management has aggravated the issue. A 2017 report from the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) claimed the country had touched the "water stress line" in 1990, and a decade and a half later, it crossed the "water scarcity line" in 2005. The country is supposed to reach the "absolute scarcity" level of water by 2025.

Growing seasonal afflictions such as delay in the monsoon season or failure to get enough rains exacerbate

irrigation system. This was why the government began the Diamer-Bhasha dam project, which would, to some extent though, neutralise external water threats by ensuring adequate water storage in the country. But, it must also be kept in mind that despite having signed a treaty with Pakistan, India has intermittently threatened to block Pakistan's share of water flowing from its borders. Besides Modi's tantrums, in February last year, Nitin Gadkari, India's then water resources minister, publicly alluded to the "calls for India to prevent even a single drop of water from going to Pakistan". While such pronouncements may be dismissed as hot air, they are bound to heighten existential anxieties and support permanent escalation further constricting any room for engagement. Some alarmist suggestions foresee an immediate nuclear war should India realise the threat. So we need to be aware of and prepare for in case of any conflict.

Conflict resolution with

1. Afghanistan

A water-sharing treaty between Pakistan and Afghanistan could, it is believed, potentially help promote the irrigation techniques used and determine the types of hydroelectric projects that can be built along the Kabul River basin. Afghanistan and Pakistan must, therefore, urgently start paying attention to regional hydro-diplomacy. The first step is to support the gathering of data, which would be shared with all neighbours, and potential scientific forecasts of the planned dams' impacts on water flow. Scientists need to be involved with international diplomatic and scientific support.

2. India

Unless Pakistan and India commit to solving the bilateral water issues through effective hydro-diplomacy in line with the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), a war between the two countries may break out in future.

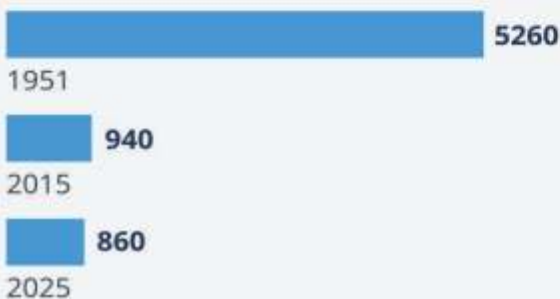
Conclusion

With rising water demand and declining availability, along with the pressures of increasing climatic variation and climate change, Pakistan needs to work with both India and Afghanistan towards collaboration in the governance systems of water management, beginning with joint monitoring and assessment of shared waters with both its neighbours. Such collaborations will eventually help move towards implementation of some form of an integrated river basin management framework for optimising and sustaining the use of available water resources. South Asian countries could use their shared water resources for attacking poverty and achieving economic development by implementing a mechanism to monitor and assess shared water, and by collaborating closely with one another to resolve their water-sharing disputes. ■

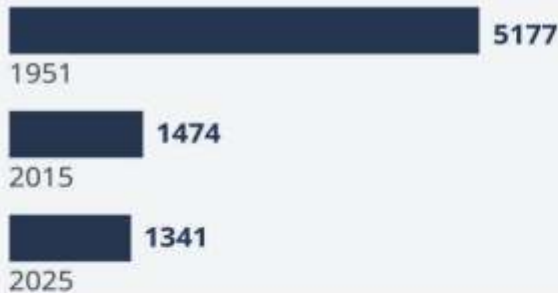
Water availability in Pakistan and India

Per capita (cubic meters per year)

Pakistan*



India**



the situation as rainfall has been steadily declining; this, according to experts, is being mainly linked to climate change. In Sindh and Balochistan, drought has almost become a permanent feature with deaths being reported regularly from Sindh, particularly in Tharparkar. But amid increasing political rancour and the perennial tussle between various state institutions, there is hardly any time to think about the future that, by various scientific studies, is not too distant in future and carries extremely grim predictions. Any failure in agriculture would choke Pakistan's lifeline as about 60 percent of its GDP depends on agronomy.

The availability of water means everything to Pakistan, an agricultural nation with the world's most interconnected

NATIONAL



P

akistan's water diplomacy in the region must be based on four cardinal principles:

1. Pakistan's regional diplomacy should seek to proactively respond to India's efforts to keep a lid on water as a bilateral matter and deal with each neighbour separately. Pakistan is not the only country with which India has unresolved

water issues. In fact, India has such disputes with almost all its neighbours, from Bangladesh to China. Pakistan should, therefore, elevate transboundary waters to bilateral discussions with all of India's water neighbours, particularly Bangladesh and China, but also with increasingly more assertive Bhutan and Nepal. 2. Transboundary water is not only about diplomatic negotiations, but also an issue of upstream investments for downstream economic needs. Pakistan has not made adequate investments to secure water for its future use. Upstream investments in Bhutan by India have resulted in three hydel power projects of 1,416MW, and three more of 2,129MW are under construction. Afghanistan-Pakistan geography and topography is ideally suited for benefit sharing from Kabul River. Pakistan needs to consider similar upstream investments in Afghanistan, where the construction of 13 smaller dams is under consideration. Pakistan can fully or partially fund the construction of one or two smaller dams in Afghanistan. In return, Pakistan can secure both energy and water to lift its tribal areas and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa out of water and energy deficits. A clear proposition by Pakistan can help Islamabad forge common ground with Afghanistan and, ideally, with the World Bank. Prolonged inaction by Islamabad will inevitably result in a void that can be too tempting for extra regional actors.

Upstream water investments in Afghanistan are in Pakistan's strategic interest: increased agricultural productivity and livelihood options can help curtail

migration from Afghanistan to Pakistan for economic opportunities between Peshawar and Karachi. This can also lay the foundation for regional water markets. Much like the proposed South Asian energy corridors, the time for regional water markets is fast approaching.

3. Water for Pakistan is more than about precipitation during the monsoon. Climate change is creating a similar set of challenges for regional countries in the Himalayan-Hindu Kush regions, and from the Bay of Bengal to the Arabian Sea. It is posing serious threats to food security, increasing migration and extreme events, including floods, droughts and heatwaves. Cloudbursts in Jammu inundated Sialkot, much as Nowshera became a victim of flooding in the Kabul River. Transboundary flooding risks are attributable to climate change and are engulfing the entire South Asian region. Transboundary water management needs to be ramped up by Pakistan to a higher regional and international security plateau, and employed as an instrument to enhance regional trade and economic cooperation.

4. For success in regional water diplomacy, Pakistan must invest in institutional infrastructure. How could a country that depends so much on transboundary water supplies not have a full-fledged water ministry and departments at the federal and provincial levels? How could Pakistan afford not to have national and provincial water policies? Or water pricing? In order to bury the ad-hocism of regional water diplomacy, a National Commission on Transboundary Waters needs to be established with a constitutional status comparable to the Election Commission, mandated to manage all transboundary water issues dealing with the Upper Indus Basin, Afghanistan and, of course India and the IWT's Permanent Commission. ■



On March 13, Telenor Pakistan became the third telecom company to successfully test 5G. In a ground-breaking development, the cellular operator executed the most comprehensive 5G trial setup in Pakistan that involved multiple suppliers, achieving connectivity speeds greater than 1.5Gbps. With this test, mobile phone users are eagerly looking forward to the launch of 5G network in Pakistan. While many of us are not sure about the features and benefits of 5G, the term has already become mainstream with almost everyone wondering about its availability in Pakistan. It was late 2000s when 4G technology started making its mark by speeding up mobile phone internet multiple times faster than 3G. It enhanced the functionality of mobile devices through opening new possibilities of HD video calls, HD TV and way faster mobile browsing. This was no less than a revolution for portable devices.



With the recent testing of 5G by Telenor Pakistan, mobile phone users are eagerly looking forward towards the launch of 5G network in the country. While many of us are not sure about the features and benefits of 5G,

the term has already become a buzzword with almost everyone wondering about its availability in Pakistan. Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) did the commendable job of providing trial spectrum to mobile operators, thus giving the general public an opportunity to "touch and feel" 5G. This success, however, is not going to translate into an internet revolution anytime soon because of the lack of a collective sharing regime to lessen the burden on end consumers.

Before we look into Pakistan's preparedness to launch 5G, and a much wider discussion on its applications, use cases and other details, let's have a look at what 5G actually is.

What is 5G?

5G is the 5th generation mobile network. A fast and reliable innovation, it is the next generation of wireless technology. that is expected to fundamentally change how the world is connected and the way we manage businesses and live our daily lives. As the fifth generation

Hassaan Bin Zubair

of mobile wireless communications, 5G promises lower latency (the time required for devices to communicate via wireless networks) and greater stability. This next generation of cellular network technology is said to be anywhere from 100 times to 400 times faster than 4G with 5G's lower latency, thus enabling people to connect many devices at once and move more data due to the faster speeds.

Functions

In general, 5G functions can be broadly categorized into three main types of connected services:

- **Enhanced Mobile Broadband:** 5G will not only make our smartphones better, but it will also usher in new immersive experiences, such as VR and AR, with faster, more uniform data rates, lower latency, and cost-per-bit.
- **Mission-Critical Communications:** 5G will enable new services that can transform industries with ultra-reliable/available, low latency links such as remote control of critical infrastructure, vehicles, and medical procedures.
- **Massive Internet of Things:** 5G will seamlessly connect a massive number of embedded sensors in virtually everything through the ability to scale down in data rates, power and mobility to provide extremely lean/low-cost

solutions.

A defining capability of 5G is also the design for forward compatibility and the ability to flexibly support future services that are unknown today. 5G is more than about just how "fast" it is. In addition to higher peak data rates, 5G will provide much more network capacity by expanding into new spectrum, such as millimeter wave (mmWave). 5G will also deliver much lower latency for a quicker immediate response, and an overall more uniform user experience so that the data rates stay consistently high even when users are moving around. Moreover, the new 5G NR (New Radio) mobile network will be backed up by Gigabit LTE coverage foundation, which will provide ubiquitous Gigabit-class connectivity.

How does it work?

With 5G, signals run over new radio frequencies, which requires updating radios and other equipment on cell towers. There are three different methods for building a 5G network, depending on the type of assets a wireless carrier has: low-band network (wide coverage area but only about 20% faster than 4G), high-band network (superfast speeds but signals don't travel well and struggle to move through hard surfaces) and mid-band network (balances speed and coverage). Carriers building superfast 5G networks must install tons of small cell sites — about the size of pizza boxes — to light poles, walls or towers, often in relatively small proximity to one another. For that reason, superfast networks are mostly being deployed city by city. Eventually, most US carriers will have a mix of the different network types that will enable both broad coverage and fast speeds.

How is 5G different from 4G?

It is obvious as broad daylight that 5G will be considerably faster and efficient as compared to 4G. Speculations reveal that 5G will be 100 times faster than 4G with the speed of a couple of gigabytes per second. 5G technology will utilise much higher radio frequencies than 4G. This will allow it to support one million devices per square kilometre — a lot more than that of 4G which cannot go up to support more than 4,000 devices/km². Another striking key difference between 4G and 5G is the low latency. Latency, in its simplest form, can be defined as the time between sending and receiving information. 5G will be characterised by considerably reduced latency. This means information will reach the end-point faster. This will have a great impact as mobile devices will be used as a replacement for modem devices. The dimension

of machine-to-machine communication will also experience a revolution due to the low latency.

Impact of 5G technology

5G technology will be characterised by increased bandwidth on the data. Network is down — we all hear this sentence every now and then from our internet service providers. However, with 5G internet, this will become a thing of the past.

Increased bandwidth will ensure the availability of high-speed internet, no matter how many devices are connected. With 5G internet, downloading complete movies will become a matter of a few seconds. The ultra-high speed offered by 5G will take the web-browsing experience to the next level.

However, the major revolution that the world will experience will be in terms of IoT — a mechanism in which artificial intelligence will play a significant role. The transfer of data will become possible without human interaction.

Smart home, though much talked about, is still a much-awaited dimension to which IoT is the key. The net of connectivity through 5G will ensure each and every device at your home is connected — be they electrical appliances such as fridge, microwave oven or security devices ie wireless security cameras and electronic locks. Now, just imagine the life where all these devices will be connected to your mobile phone and will be waiting for a touch on your smartphone's screen.

5G will also drastically change fields of healthcare and education. Due to the lack of communication lag, doctors will be able to perform whole surgeries without being physically present there.

Furthermore, videoconferencing experience will become so real as it has been never before. Videoconferencing along with virtual reality supported by 5G technology will take educational experience to the next level, making it more exciting and engaging.

What is required to start 5G?

There are five main "ingredients" of 5G — spectrum, radio base stations, optic fibre cables, user devices and use cases. The frequency spectrum required by 5G is several times larger than 4G. Spectrum is something that is in the air, but only that amount of spectrum can be used which the government allows.

The base stations required by 5G are also a lot more. Since 5G equipment of a base station is much smaller and each one consumes very little energy, more of those massive towers are not needed anymore. New 5G base stations will be mounted on street light poles, bus stops, buildings,



etc.

Since each base station transmits and receives colossal amounts of data, it needs to be fed by big data pipes, read: optic fibre cables. Imagine optic fibre cables reaching every street light pole in congested localities! The resulting fibre network becomes so dense that 5G looks almost like a fixed line network! The number of 5G user devices will simply explode. They will not be just smartphones, dongles and wireless routers, rather more of them will be sensors attached to things like cars, plants, cattle, surveillance cameras, robots, drones, utility meters and so on.

The 5G 'use cases' that are visible so far relate mainly to "high-end" applications like driverless cars. Use cases for developing countries will emerge slowly - just as ride-hailing, mobile banking, etc appeared with 4G.

The Malaysian 5G Task Force recommends that independent agencies should be provided access to 5G to develop local use cases.

Where do we stand?

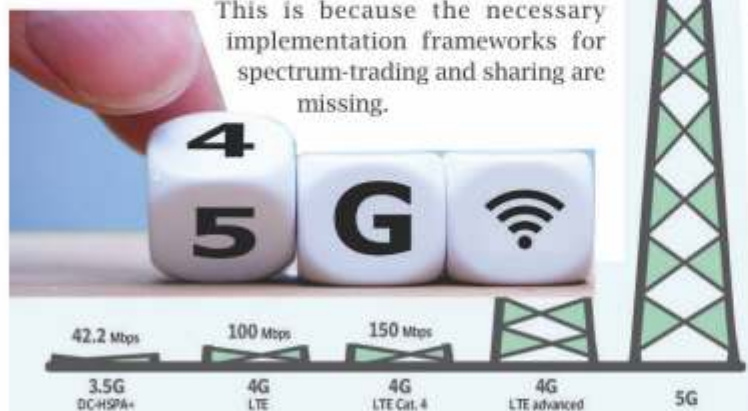
Let us see how ready we are with the above five main ingredients.

Pakistan started early. In October 2017, the IT ministry issued a policy directive for 5G trials. In late 2019, PTA published a corresponding framework, which led to 5G trials by Zong and Jazz. However, the overall spectrum, currently available in Pakistan, is less than in almost all comparable countries. It is not even sufficient for a reasonably good-quality 4G. If and when any more spectrum will be offered is not known, because there is no publicly available spectrum road map.

Spectrum is a precious limited natural resource which becomes productive for the economy only when it is put to use. That is why the number of countries giving it free of charge is increasing, e.g. Japan, China and now Malaysia. Not releasing spectrum (even priced) is not understandable. It is sheer waste of a precious limited national resource.

The waste is even more worrying when an operator possesses a chunk of spectrum that he is unable to use but cannot sell or trade it with another operator whose business may be choking due to a lack of spectrum.

This is because the necessary implementation frameworks for spectrum-trading and sharing are missing.



Optic fibre penetration in Pakistan is also among the lowest in comparable countries. Less than 10% of towers are connected with fibres. Optic fibre is an extremely capital-intensive investment with very slow rate of return, therefore difficult to come by.

On top of that, getting Right of Way (RoW) permissions for laying optic fibres is not just cumbersome, it is also very expensive. Most custodians of RoW (highways, railways, city development authorities, cantonments, housing authorities/societies) act as rent-seekers rather than providing their residents with affordable high-speed internet.

In case of radio base stations, in addition to the rent paid for the space occupied by a tower, RoW charges have also to be paid. Sometimes additional charges (like sky tax) are also payable. The high prices of devices (particularly when taxed high) act as entry barriers for potential users. Eighty-two countries of the world (including Vietnam, India, the Philippines and Malaysia) have signed World Trade Organisation's (WTO) IT Agreement to abolish taxes on IT products. Not Pakistan.

As for the development of local use cases, local developers have yet to get access to 5G.

Conclusion

5G is a new reality, which was commercially put on the market in 2019 by Germany and China; transforming the wireless technology infrastructure. Though the internet has enabled machines and humans to interact with each other in a mechanical way yet 5G, a new networking infrastructure, has made massive computing at very high speeds possible. The new infrastructure makes it possible to connect a machine with the internet without a wire of any kind. This requires highly developed signal towers,

base stations, distributed servers, and mega-scale centers. The government must intervene and arrange a formula to be enforced among competing telecom providers.

Those who have experienced 5G speeds will vouch that it is more efficient than 4G. Sooner or later, our government will have to turn to 5G or modern infrastructure for durable economic stability, fighting against corruption and modern world white crimes. In December, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government launched a massive plan to digitise the government calling it a pre-condition for stabilising the economy. The idea of digital government has brought about significance changes to the economies and governance of the developed world. Pakistan has already long resisted this new reality. ■

*The writer is a PhD Scholar (English Literature).
He can be reached at: hzb77@yahoo.com*

Like there is no such thing as free lunch, same is the case with free rights. Rather, they are earned and when it comes to women's rights, there is historically a perpetual struggle of women across the world. Since the mid-20th century, women in the United States and the West have also been denied their basic rights against patriarchal structures. They have earned their rights through a constant and persistent struggle. They fought tirelessly for their rights and have come along in such a short time. Their struggle served as an impetus for the feminist movement in countries around the globe, Pakistan is one among them. Aurat March, an offshoot of feminism in Pakistan, as it has come to be known since its iteration in 2018, was organized by Hum Auraten (we the women)—a feminist collective. Its basic purpose was to raise voice for culturally appropriate, equity-based and opportunity-driven change in Pakistan's gender lens. Originally, it aimed to provide women with their basic rights including health and education and, basic freedoms including the freedom to move, freedom to think and choose, but now it has gone far beyond that.

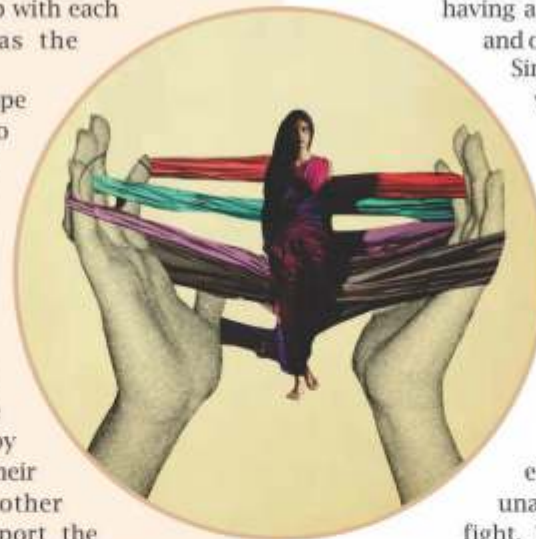
LOUSY PORTRAIT OF AURAT MARCH

Dr. Basharat Shah

Aurat March was first launched in the southern Port city Karachi when a group of women decided to expand the feminist movement beyond the upper-class of society. It was an initiative worth endorsing as it represented "Every Woman". This platform provided women opportunities to speak out, and made them feel validated. It also led to a growing number of working-class women joining the initiative to help facilitate potential action on women's rights and gender justice. The most significant thing is the "Manifesto" that Aurat March comes up with each year—manifesto for 2020 was the "Economic Justice for Women". Aurat March has reignited the hope for a world where gender ceases to become a ground for marginalization. Other areas of concern include issues about equality in public places, right to work, safety at the workplace, infrastructure support and acknowledgment of work at home, sexual harassment, and access to equal justice. The hashtag "Why I March" used by women on social media to share their stories served to encourage other women to speak out and support the March. The most passionate thing about this initiative is that it is a collective forum that creates awareness on women's rights through increased participation of the younger generation. Younger feminists have given this movement different energy and face. This has made women cognizant of the fact that they are the masters of their destiny. However,

where one can see the innumerable credits of this March, display of a few notorious expressions in the form of placards has given this movement a radical face and evinced the debit side of it.

This has led to the lost purpose of this movement with the only possible division of two groups having a hot war of words one in its favor and other being staunchly against it. Since it is a proven fact, that anything which exceeds the bounds of moderation has an 'Unstable Foundation.' Placards showing bold narratives have attracted fierce criticism and strong backlash especially online. The narratives created through this movement one of them being "My body, my choice" through placards has led people to comprehend its meaning regarding their level of understanding and embroiled them in an unending, unapologetic, and undaunted verbal fight. The role of social and electronic media is worth mentioning in this regard. Media channels have rather catalyzed verbal abuse through playing controversy for the sake of ratings. Electronic media has given the situation a "hype" and sensitization" through provocative talk shows where one could not see the display of moderation, tolerance, and sense of honor towards each other by either of the two sides. This became





possible with their invitation of controversial figures resulting in confronting each other during live shows losing all bounds of sensibility.

This predicament has boggled the mind of a common man and confused the nation about who is right and who is wrong. It is a doubtless fact that patriarchy has strong roots in Pakistan and an obstacle for women's progress but turning movement only into a massive resistance against it through bold and radical placards serves no solution. It has only agitated the situation. Dominated by slogans like "Apna khana khud garam karlo" the March has been restricted to the domestic domain ignoring issues of greater concern like economic equality, equal political representation, etc. Rather, the original purpose of the movement is lost somewhere. One can see that people did not witness any solid political, economic or socio-cultural development by the state in the favor of women during and after this March. The only prominent thing is the war of words, mutual allegations and undaunted attitude displayed on both sides. The actual purpose of placards to show women as relevantly strong, opinionated and loud has gone astray. This is why the debate has been ushered in Pakistan over Aurat March being the western construct despising the norms of Pakistani society. It is opined that Western hegemony is prevalent over this movement which feeds into a repulsion towards feminism in countries like Pakistan. The strong backlash against Aurat March in the last two years is a testimony to that.

Reviewing the criticism against feminism in the current year owing to a few unwise and immature steps during

Aurat March, it is gauged that this situation could lead to the status of Pakistani women in an abyss where the country already ranks third-worst in 2020 Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic Forum. On top of it, out of 5000 international honor killings, 1000 are recorded only in Pakistan. The region's highest scorer in the report by WEF is Bangladesh which ranked 50th, Pakistan being 151st.

Owing to the statistics, it is high time the organizers of this movement displayed a sense of responsibility to fight patriarchal structures and structural barriers that hinder



women's abilities to achieve markers of dignity like equal salary in a firm not only to resource them but to appreciate their equal qualification as men. To raise the status of women in Pakistan, an inclusive feminist movement is the need of the hour where the voice should be vociferous for women being given equal rights as men. The perception of excluding men or being overly critical of them through bold placards would not only damage the notion of the initiative but also leave women empowerment in Pakistan in limbo. Therefore, it is the onus of multiple actors including organizers and participants of the march along with media channels to work for broader interests of women and the nation by playing a positive, creative and responsible role. This is significant since women are the founding pillars of inclusive nations. No nation can progress without its women being side by side in every field to comple-

ment the other gender not to confront it. China is an evident testimony to this fact and Pakistan needs to learn from its neighbor friend. ■



INTRODUCING TAX MEASURES FOR EFFICIENT AND EQUITABLE TAX SYSTEM

Bilal Hassan

The process for making budget for fiscal year 2020-21 is underway and to bring certainty, predictability, efficiency, equity and progressivity in the taxation policy, the Federal Board of Revenue, the federal tax collection authority, has invited proposals concerning amendments to the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, from the concerned stakeholders, including chambers of commerce, trade bodies and its field formations. The proposals are invited concerning broad areas of direct taxation policy and therefore, the stakeholders are required to submit proposals for promoting equity in taxation; removal of tax distortions and anomalies; broadening of tax base; phasing out of tax concessions and exemptions; taxation of real income on progressive basis; and facilitation of taxpayers and ease of doing business.



Promoting equity

Equity is one of the golden principles of taxation policy. Many empirical and non-empirical research studies have identified pivotal role of equity in taxation to optimize societal welfare. Equity ensures taxation of real income on progressive basis. It is of two types: horizontal and vertical.

Horizontal equity requires that the taxable persons with equal levels of income must pay the same amount of tax for a tax period in which such income is earned. This aspect of equity develops a perception of fairness among taxable persons, especially small and medium ones, and so encourages them to ensure compliance of tax laws.

On the other hand, vertical equity requires that the taxable persons with different levels of income must pay different amounts in taxes such that the taxable persons with higher level of income are subject to higher taxes as a percentage of their income than those taxable persons falling within lower income brackets.

Vertical equity has a significant role in

reducing income gaps between high income earners and low income earners during a specific period. So, based on the concept of equity, a tax becomes proportional if all the taxable persons pay the same percentage of their income in the form of tax—regressive if the taxable persons with higher income level pay tax as a small percentage of their income; and progressive if the taxable persons with higher income pay a greater percentage of their income as tax.

Needless to mention that overwhelming portion of tax revenue in the advanced economies comes from direct taxes, which are effectively enforced. This could be one of the reasoning why developed countries are successful in maintaining the lowest gap between higher income earners and

lower income earners. Contrary to this, the developing countries, like Pakistan, are collecting major portion of their tax revenues through indirect taxes and presumptive withholding taxes. It is pertinent to mention that the Chairman FBR has recently made a statement that 90pc FBR



income tax collection comes from withholding taxes and only 5pc to 10pc comes from voluntary tax compliance.

It is considered an uphill task for a state with heavy reliance on indirect taxes to maintain equity and hence to optimize societal welfare. Importance of equity can also be estimated from the fact that governments explore various ways within indirect taxation policy such as targeted exemptions and zero rating on essential items such as food and social necessities for reducing the regressivity of indirect taxes such as sales tax/value added tax.

Given the significance of equity in taxation policy, this an opportunity for stakeholders to come up with concrete proposals to assist the government in making income tax policy more equitable.

Removing tax distortions and anomalies

Removing tax distortions and anomalies, and phasing out of tax concessions, as well as giving exemptions are helpful in achieving equity in the taxation system. To promote economic growth and to achieve economic efficiency, it is essential that taxation policy is neutral to economic agents. A neutral taxation policy does not always interfere with the allocation of resources and its application does not modify the decisions of consumers and investors concerning consumption and investment. Moreover, a neutral tax policy leaves production undistorted so much so such a policy is helpful in achieving broader tax base; taxing broader base at lower rates; optimizing tax revenue; enhancing economic productivity; and stabilizing economy.

Phasing out tax concessions and exemptions

Similarly, phasing out of tax concessions and exemptions is imperative not only to prevent loss of tax revenue, but also to broaden the tax base, to make tax system simple and neutral, to increase tax compliance and to reduce risks to businesses. It is worth mentioning that during FY2018-19, the government sacrificed income tax revenue

Horizontal and Vertical Equity

• Horizontal equity

- Equal treatment of equals
- Equity within/ among groups (i.e., within the school district)

• Vertical equity

- *Unequal treatment of unequals*
- *Equity between groups (i.e., between basic and special education students)*

of Rs 141 billion due to tax exemptions and concessions. Tax concessions and exemptions also give rise to a question of transparency in the fiscal policy as major beneficiaries of such concessions and exemptions have rarely been published. They also complicate taxation system, forcing tax authorities to put additional resources to prevent misuse of tax concessions and exemptions.

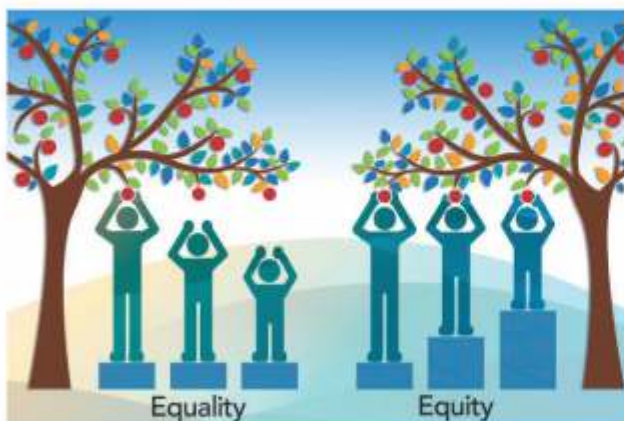
Broadening tax base

Narrow tax base in terms of tax return filers remains the main concern for the FBR. Despite massive changes in the tax policy in the recent past, such as differential withholding tax rates for filers and non-filers and active taxable persons and non-active taxable persons, the recently-released data of the FBR has shown 2.34 million tax return filers by January 31, 2020. Although there is 40pc increase in tax return filers over the same period last year, but the number is not capable to be overjoyed keeping in view the potential pool of the taxable persons in the country. To achieve neutrality, efficiency and progressivity, it is imperative that a tax system has a broad base; having all taxable persons in its net.

Facilitating taxpayers

Last but not least, facilitation of the taxable persons and ease of doing business are important policy areas from economic viewpoint. Investors largely assessed jurisdictions on these parameters before undertaking investments. Empirically better doing business ranking is found significantly associated with larger foreign direct investment (DFI) inflows. Importantly, Pakistan's ranking on the ease of doing business index has improved from 136 in 2019 to 108 in 2020. However, to stimulate business activity and to attract more DFI inflows, Pakistan has to further improve its position on ease of doing business index especially by making tax procedures and tax payments easier and business-friendly. ■

The writer serves as Additional Director Intelligence & Investigation (Inland Revenue) at the FBR.





Introduction

The 18th Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan has done little to change the status of local governments in Pakistan. Despite application of several iterative reforms so that they are able to tackle the subjects devolved to them, the performance of local governments seems to lack essence. The passage of the 18th Amendment meant that local governments would be placed at the centre of the

organizations.

The idea of devolution and empowerment is not merely to transfer a few provincial and federal subjects to the local governments. This may result in modelling of the local governments against the governance models adopted at the federal level or in the provinces. They may not be great examples to follow, especially in the case of the developing world. Local governments following such transfers would continue to stay local. The idea is to look at the

understood by looking at the trajectory of empowerment and strengthening of local governments in Pakistan. The context on how their structure and functionality have been conveniently moulded to suit political interests yields an intriguing analysis. It is interesting to observe how political considerations determined the outlook and complexion of governance that was to take place in Pakistan.

Trajectory

In the aftermath of the

TURNING THE LOCAL GLOBAL



country's development campaign. They had to act as the development pivot. However, in all safety, one can say that local governments under Musharraf were far more organized than they are now under an arguably democratic polity. And no matter how good the 18th Amendment looks on paper, it has definitely fallen short of the object that set it in motion. Not only local, but also the systemic cracks in the provincial and federal governments have been exposed regularly by external shocks that lay bare the huge capacity deficits prevalent within these

successful local governance models followed around the world, and remodel local governments to bring them in line with the international best practices. Local governments, therefore, have to be turned global. This is where Pakistan has seriously failed. Despite making a historic legislative advancement by passing the 18th Amendment, Pakistan has not been able to provide local governments the status that they deserved. Much of this can be

18th Amendment, Pakistan had to make the exercise of devolving powers, both financial and administrative, to the provinces. The Concurrent List was abolished which meant that subjects that were dealt with both at the federation level and in the provinces were automatically dropped from the federal purview to become provincial. This was a transitory step in the devolution process — a bigger and more difficult leap forward had to be devolution from the provinces to the districts. It has taken Pakistan 10 years (since 2010 when the Amendment was passed), dozens of dossiers, reports and policy papers but local governments continue to operate as feebly as they did back in 2010. An under

resourced office of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), few Assistant Commissioners (in larger districts) and disempowered local political executive who is neither elected on a continuous basis nor provided adequate and sufficient funds to keep the wheel of development moving. Between 2009 and 2015, not a single local-bodies election was held meaning that the districts operated only under the administrative control of the District Coordination Officer (DCO), holder of an office whose sanctity and writ had significantly waned after the Local Government Ordinance of 2001. I shall come to discuss that in detail later in the piece.

It is imperative to imagine the empowerment and strengthening of

to power did so by overthrowing the mainstream political leadership. However, the demands of governance required that there be some level of political representation which necessitated that the military rulers would undertake the laborious exercise of creating a parallel leadership which would then have to be provided some franchise. Most of the political leadership created in the breeding grounds of the military became politically irrelevant as soon as the reins of power were transferred to the civilian leadership. They just simply vanished.

The BDO did promise some franchise to the local political executive but did so by making them subservient to a controlling authority comprising the DC, Commissioner and other

national politics leaves space open for infiltration at the local level. Even to date, almost all mainstream political parties seem to be rather disorganized at the local level, having little or no party structure in the zila, tehsil or mouza. Most democracies that have been established in Pakistan have built on this rather undemocratic premise.

Bhutto was opposed to the bureaucracy, not bitterly per se but his actions did as much to contain the bureaucracy as they did to reform it. His era is considered the one of discomfort for the bureaucrats who found themselves weak, incapacitated and effectively sidelined often performing menial and routine tasks. From the very outset, Bhutto was eager to regulate the functioning



local governments in context of the larger political system. The different roles that the local governments assume during civilian and military regimes is an interesting way to understand how local governments interact with the larger political system and why today they stand where they do. During the times of the military, greater emphasis was placed on strengthening local governments. The opposite, unfortunately, happened when democratic rule was established. Ayub Khan's Basic Democracies Order (BDO-1959) sought to create a multi-tiered system of local government and empowered it against higher-order political organizations that were disbanded through the military takeover in 1958. Thereafter, this became a regular practice of the military rulers. Whosoever came

members of the local bureaucratic elite. Ayub's local government was also essentially used to legitimize the controversial Constitution of 1962 that was seen to strengthen the armed forces at the loss of other institutions apart from also trying to forge the establishment of an apparently presidential system. One, therefore, must understand that strengthening local governments by allowing space for newly-elected local representatives and arming them with some financial and administrative powers at the tehsil and zila (district) levels is not a choice of the military rulers, but a necessity. The mainstream leadership that the parallel local political representatives created by the military are expected to replace often operate at the higher level of politics. Their interest in the provincial and

of the bureaucracy. He brought a system of bureaucratic reform that divided the executive branch of the government into 12 cadres, all put into a common system that provided for joint training of the different cadres of the civil service and bound them by a set of service rules to be codified into the Estacode. The making of these rules was mandated by Article 99 of the newly-passed 1973 Constitution of Pakistan. He abolished constitutional guarantees for civil servants which further added to the insecurities that civil servants felt during his time at the office. The CSP, which was once the linchpin of Pakistan's bureaucracy and spearheaded the country's initial development process, was made subservient to the jiyalas of the PPP who belonged to a political class that was not equipped with the tools and

training needed to formulate and execute policies and development plans. This resulted in conflicts and governance failures that doubled the government's disadvantage during a period when the nationalization of private enterprise demanded better administration. Sidelineing both the private sector and the bureaucracy was a recipe for disaster. However, as Pakistan still holds onto the common system of recruitment and the service rules established under Bhutto, one begins to wonder if his reforms were as bad as they are perceived to be.

As Cheema et al point out, Zia followed in the footsteps of Bhutto by foregoing political centralization to institute electoral representation at the local level. Like Ayub whose

served to weaken the district bureaucracy. The executive branch of the government under Musharraf did not feel as weak as did the newly-created office of the DCO who was now, in many ways, subordinating the District Mayor. Several good officers, who held the posts of DC and Commissioner prior to the change, requested for transfers to the provincial secretariat to avoid being answerable to the elected mayors who they perhaps saw as offices poorly placed to supervise their functioning. The local bodies elections of 2001 and 2005 saw strong local governments with significant amount of funds at their disposal in the districts. The bureaucracy assumed a subsidiary role in the development process. This

that many of them perceived as their own. Transferring these to the local political executive, who is elected on a non-party basis, would result in an irreversible dilution of administrative and financial powers. This was not acceptable to any of the two parties that governed in the decade between 2008 and 2018. No local bodies elections were held during the 5-year PPP rule which meant that the administrative space vacated in the districts was filled by the bureaucracy. A new local bodies ordinance was promulgated in 2013 that did not return magistracy powers to the Pakistan Administrative Service; however, it did restore the office of the DC and sought to distribute powers rather equally between the DPO, DC and the District and



primary support base lay in the rural areas the allocations of which he had increased significantly as a strategy to remove the urban bias strongly associated with his predecessors. Interestingly, while the military-empowered local governments made efforts to remove the rural-urban divide and provided them with some degree of representation, the provincial administration retained suspension powers and the powers to quash resolutions of the local governments. The bargain perhaps was to empower local governments but not at the expense of the hierarchy that placed the military administrators in the higher echelons of authority.

The Local Government Ordinance (LGO) of 2001 was promulgated under a military government but to the great surprise of observers, it

however, was not a withdrawal of powers from the local governments rather it was a change that empowered one local player at the expense of another. It was later determined that the elected local bodies supervised by the military could not yield the same development outcomes as did the bureaucracy. News agencies in those time reported massive corruption and embezzlement of funds at the local level, raising serious concerns on the quality of governance in the districts.

The re-emergence of a democratic policy in Pakistan in 2008 meant that while there would be promises to empower local governments, the so-called democratic governments in the centre and the provinces would be reluctant in transferring authority to the districts which may run them the risk of doing away with powers

Sessions Judge depending on the mandate and requirements of their specific roles.

Conclusion

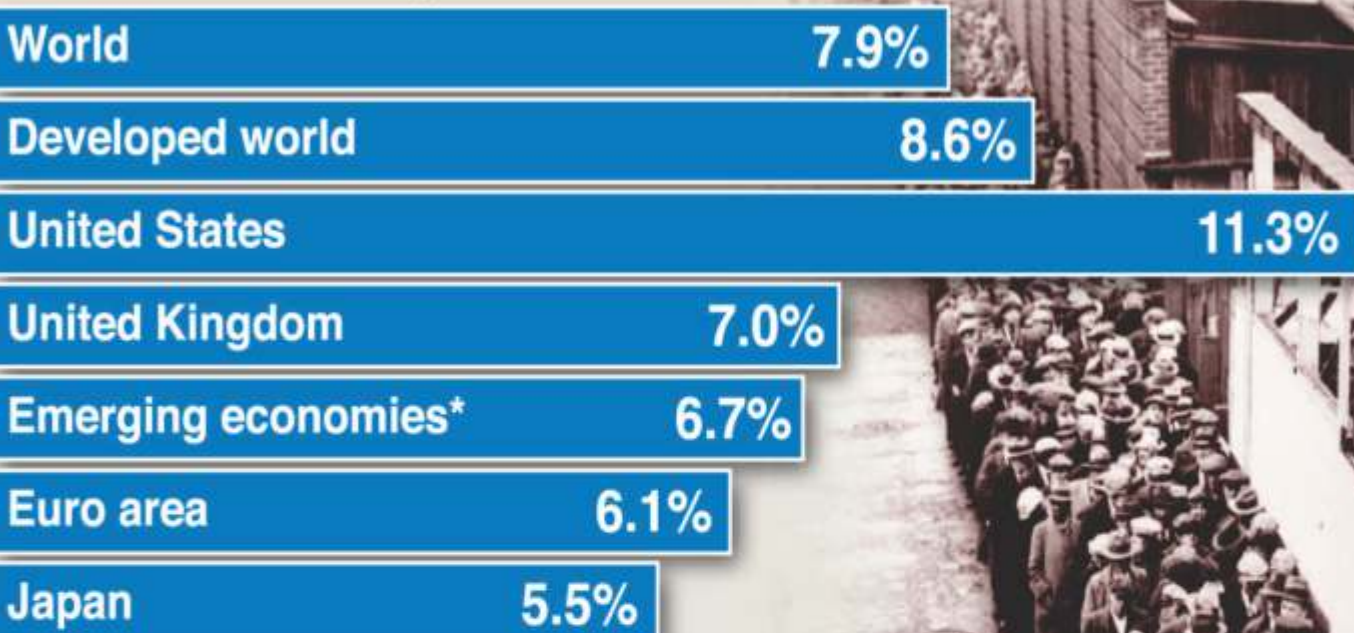
The empowerment and strengthening of local governments still remain a concern for Pakistan, especially from the viewpoint of establishing a strong federation the precondition to which is functioning and independent federating units. The true spirit of the 18th Amendment and fiscal federalism will be a distant dream until the decision-making powers are not devolved to the lowest level. ■

The writer is a civil servant working for the Federal Government of Pakistan, and ex-Director of the Institute of Public Policy, Lahore. He can be reached via email @ asad.ejazb@gmail.com

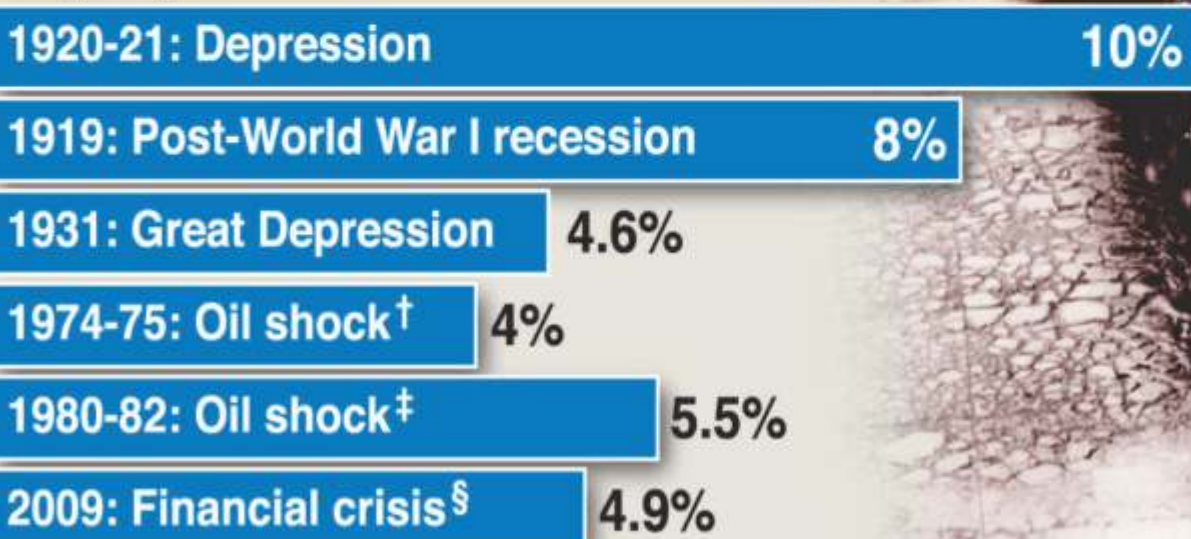
Impact of Covid-19 on global economy

The global economy faces at least \$5.5 trillion in lost growth – as much as the annual GDP of Japan – because of the coronavirus pandemic, according to investment bank JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Cumulative losses by end of 2021



Largest previous falls of world GDP



1930s: Jobless and homeless men wait for free dinners

23 countries including BRICs – Brazil, Russia, India, China – and Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey and South Africa

Arab oil producers institute oil embargo against Israel's allies during 1973 Arab-Israeli War. [†]Iranian Revolution of 1979 sparks second

oil crisis. [§]Aggregate fall in GDP of 36 OECD countries



Why Political Knowledge Matters?

Dawood Abbas Khan

Lissemination of political knowledge is necessary for a well-functioning, vibrant democracy. People with high level of political knowledge are aware of everyday politics and are less prone to manipulation.

Choosing the right candidate to vote for, holding parliamentarians accountable, knowing about funds and their proper investment from respective constituencies are some important hallmarks of a healthy democracy. However, this is only possible if people have sufficient knowledge about politics; no doubt, democracy cannot flourish in a politically-ignorant society. This type of knowledge, in fact, is an instrumental good that allows citizens to translate their political interests into effective political actions. In fine, political knowledge is the basic currency of democracy.

Specifically, if we take a look at Pakistan, we find that our people do not have the basic political knowledge and if some people do, that is of very low quality. Most citizens even don't know the names of those who are governing us. Newspapers, electronic and social media are the sources of only political news, and not political knowledge. They provide us with only information about the issues and event that takes place with very little political knowledge. As a result, where illiteracy ratio is high, particularly in Sindh province, people get easily manipulated by their MPs. Before elections, these people go door to door to canvass and in the process of persuading them, they manipulate peoples' minds by telling them vague stories, blaming the federal government for not allocating the funds, and the list of lies goes on. As a result, people accept and agree with them, forgetting all the things that had happened in the past five years. These are the same people who have done nothing for education. They feel that if they educate the masses, they would be held accountable and may even lose the next election. In fact, education and political knowledge give people the confidence to recognize and raise their voice for the fulfilment of their fundamental rights. Thus, due to less political knowledge, the lousy politicians

Political knowledge refers to the factual information about politics. It includes the basic knowledge of laws and one's basic rights, ability to react on governmental decisions and policies and holding sound opinions on and understanding of what is happening politically and why and how does it take place.

who had done nothing for the welfare of people get selected in every election.

Besides this, there is Article 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, which reads: [19A. "Right to information.— Every citizen shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, and there shall be freedom of the press, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of the glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defence of Pakistan or any part thereof, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, [commission of] or incitement to an offence."

Under this article, every common citizen can obtain information about budgets and their investment and much more related to their respective constituencies from any official. But unfortunately people have little knowledge of this law. If we exercise this law, we will be able to know authentic data on any matter, and hold the government accountable.

So the question is: how to educate common citizens with basic political knowledge through which they can figure out how things work in a political environment and how to react and criticise the government?

Firstly, the media should broadcast programmes—whereby people are educated politically—by inviting political scientists, lawyers and people from academia. Secondly, teachers must educate the students in this regard. And lastly, the Government of Pakistan should add political science as a compulsory subject in school and college curricula so as to raise students with some sound and mature political knowledge. If our policymakers start working on grassroots level, we will expect a change in thoughts of people in the near future.

In a nutshell, political knowledge is a prerequisite for a healthy democracy. Ignorant people cannot enjoy the fruit of democracy and remain deprived of their basic rights. Media and the government should initiate programs to educate masses because in an ignorant political society, positive change in the system is next to impossible. ■

EXAM PACK

Global Power Dynamics and Pakistan's Foreign Policy

a. Introduction

b. A new World Order

- i. New alliances among NATO countries, and Russia
- ii. Decline in UK's role in international politics, and Brexit
- iii. Resurgence of Russia in world politics
- iv. Power struggle between United States and China
- v. Alliance between Israel and the Arab world
- vi. Changing power dynamics in the Middle East
- vii. China's BRI, and the CPEC opportunity for Pakistan

c. Decline in the role and influence of international organizations (e.g. UN, EU) as impartial brokers in conduct of relations between and among nations

d. Preference for strongmen in democracies across the world and autocratic rule after getting elected

e. Competition among powers in West Asia (Syria), Middle East, Crimea, South China Sea and the Indian Ocean

f. Shifting regional alliances

- i. Pakistan and Arab alliance and Pak-Saudi relations
- ii. Pakistan-Iran relations and delicate balancing of neutrality between Saudi Arabia and Iran in the wake of an isolated and imperilled Iran
- iii. Pakistan and Afghanistan peace process and withdrawal of US occupation forces
- iv. Pakistan and its frayed relationship with a hegemonic Indian establishment and Kashmir issue
- v. Arab relations with India and issue of Kashmir
- vi. Turkey-Iran-Malaysia summit and Pakistan's role in bloc led by these countries

g. Trade war and competition for more resources and regional hegemony

- i. An era of new cold war but through a new means of economy, trade, expansion in influences of superpowers
- ii. Supremacy in diplomacy through trade and economic sanctions

iii. US hegemony in international financial institutions, and through dollar trade

h. Foreign policy options for Pakistan

- i. Strict neutrality in diplomacy and safeguard of national interests
- ii. Economic revival and promotion of the country's soft image
- iii. Balanced relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran
- iv. Resolution of Kashmir issue and concerted efforts to highlight the Kashmir cause
- v. CPEC opportunity and cementing of trade and strategic relations with China
- vi. Active participation in organizations UN, EU, SCO, ASEAN, SAARC and OIC to protect Pakistan national interests
- vii. Moral support of the Palestinian struggle and two-state solution

i. Conclusion



ESSAY OUTLINES

Pakistan's Informal Economy: The Way Forward

Muhammad Sulaiman

a. Introduction

- i. Involves business and commerce bypassing legal channels of business
- ii. Large part of economy not documented and without any trail of origin and end
- iii. Informal economy deals in cash, informal receipts and trading vouchers
- iv. No clue for the taxman to tax business transactions

b. Why informal economy?

- i. Developing economy and issue of literacy
- ii. Segmented economy and different sectors relying on cash
- iii. Low density of consumer awareness and business solutions available to individuals and businesses
- iv. Banking and trade institutions not integrated with each other
- v. Economy not integrated and developed to use financial instruments for business and other personal or expense-related transactions

vi. Cultural issue of dealing in cash and avoiding credit

c. Disadvantages of informal economy

- i. Economy is not documented
- ii. People are excluded from inclusive growth offered by documented sectors of the economy
- iii. Lacks incentives for labour and unskilled workers and deprives them of social, health and economic protections under various labour laws
- iv. Less investment in capacity building of the labour and their skill development
- v. May not be used in productive business generation
- vi. Used predominantly in consumption business
- vii. Doesn't contribute to GDP of a country in real terms
- viii. Leaves no money trail for the taxman
- ix. Doesn't allow authentic measurement of the volume of a business
- x. Doesn't allow accurate levy of tax
- xi. Spurs corruption and financial malpractice
- xii. Can be misused in terror financing, or land in wrong

EXAM PACK

hands

- xiii. Can encourage smuggling and purchase of contraband articles
- xiv. Can attract FATF blockades and economic sanctions
- xv. Can create artificial bubbles in different sectors of the economy
- xvi. Can slow the pace of a formal economy by siphoning capital to an informal economy
- xvii. Is highly monopolized by strong mafias
- xviii. Employs children and encourages child labour
- xix. Deprives children of education and further marginalizes female population
- d. How to tackle informal economy?
 - i. Increase business awareness, literacy and e-commerce
 - ii. Incentivise formal registration with tax authorities and utility and service-providing industry
 - iii. Introduce one-window integration so that one identity number could work across all financial institutions
 - iv. Interlink FBR, NADRA, banks, utility companies and other retail businesses
 - v. Introduce ease-of-doing-business reforms and make taxation process easy and foolproof
 - vi. Open integrated feedback channel and robust help lines to redress grievances and complaints of the businessmen
 - vii. Offer tax incentives for conducting a major percentage of business transactions through bank and formally-approved channels of payments
 - viii. Integrate system of payments through banks and mobile transfers for import sector to retail and wholesale sectors
 - ix. Build useful mobile applications to facilitate banking and doing business
 - x. Tackle smuggling and purchase of contraband items



- xi. Target specific business sectors (retail/wholesale and community and social services) and sectors of economy such as agriculture and small-scale manufacturing
- xii. Identify untapped areas to increase documentation of economy and tax revenue
- xiii. Introduce cashless business culture and strong ethical values to declare business volumes, sales and purchases
- xiv. Introduce amnesty schemes after establishing a tight noose around undocumented sectors of the economy
- xv. Employ a mix of legislation to gradually phase out child labour, make Worker Welfare Fund (WWF), Worker Profit Participation Fund (WPPF) fully enforced and business incentives to discourage informal business
- xvi. Collaboration with ILO and other international labour organizations to introduce best practices, reforms and new management
- e. Conclusion

Promoting Tourism in Pakistan: Opportunities and Challenges

a. Introduction

b. Opportunities

- i. Cultural, religious and tourist attractions
- ii. Diverse landscape, weather and geological formations
 - 1. Snow-capped mountains, glaciers
 - 2. Mountain climbing and trekking
 - 3. Desert rallies and camping
 - 4. National parks, forestry and horticulture
 - 5. Indus Valley Civilization attraction
- iii. Expansion of business and commerce
- iv. Literary, sports and shopping festivals to boost trade and cultural exchanges
- v. Incentive for foreign direct investment
- vi. Investment in infrastructure and development
- vii. Development of hospitality, ICT and services



industry

- viii. Development of software theme parks near tourist attractions
- ix. Employment opportunities for youth
- x. Research activities in collaboration with foreign universities
- xi. People-to-people contacts and projection of soft image of Pakistan
- xii. Boost to diplomacy through tourism and cultural interactions
- xiii. Relaxation in tourist visa conditions and online applications for entry
- xiv. Examples of religious, cultural and literary tourism
- xv. Establishment of specific areas for cultural, scientific and religious heritage
- xvi. Kartarpur Corridor for Sikhs in Punjab, and Buddhism's sacred sites in KP
- c. Challenges
 - i. Security concerns and law and order situation
 - ii. Unnecessary verifications and issues in travel across different regions
 - iii. Slow processing of travel documents and bureaucratic hiccups
 - iv. Improvement in road infrastructure, transport services and walk-pathways required
 - v. Digital tourist maps and access to locations with integrated services through custom-based application not available

EXAM PACK

- vi. Poor integration of tourism promotion departments among different provinces
- vii. Lack of advertisement of tourist attractions and Pakistan as a tourist destination
- viii. Poor efforts to build the soft image of Pakistan
- ix. Underutilizing the soft strength and influence of Pakistani diaspora in different countries
- x. Lack of facilities in remote tourist attraction

- xi. Issue of internet connectivity and e-banking services
- xii. Promotion of tourism plans through embassies of Pakistan
- xiii. Lack of trained guides familiar for interaction and communication
- xiv. Cultural artefacts, museums and theme parks not available along major tourist attractions
- d. Conclusion

I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it.

- a. Introduction
- b. Two important values mentioned here, which hold immense appeal as well
 - i. Freedom to express
 - ii. Agreement with expression is immaterial
- c. No restrictions or punishments to be placed on freedom of speech, expression and thought
- d. Value given to an individual's right to express without any shackles or any restrictions
- e. Individual, and its free thought, is important for the progress of the society and culture, and advancement towards modernity
- f. Open-minded and rational individuals use thoughts and words to express doubt, facts, realities and ideals
- g. Criticism, satire, humour and rebuke are all unsavoury forms critique which may be despised by autocratic rulers or regimes
- h. Brakes to development are applied when expression is restricted
- i. Various instances of novel thought and its expression or expression of a thought when anything contrary to popular belief was profane:
 - i. Aristotle
 - ii. Copernicus
 - iii. Galileo
 - iv. John Locke
 - v. Voltaire
 - vi. Darwin
- j. Selective expression of thought not advisable as it kills the

spirit of veracity and investigation

- k. It is a recipe for investigation, introspection, toleration by looking at:
 - i. What caused an event and what effects it had?
 - ii. What motivated the issue and how it could be analysed threadbare?
 - iii. What questions should be asked to establish authenticity?
 - iv. What limits are prescribed for expression of thought?
 - v. Are there any holy cows or any profane domains or any sacrilegious contents?
 - vi. How to safeguard the individual liberties?
 - vii. How to protect rights of individuals?
- l. Conclusion



Is Pakistan Ready for Digital Revolution?

- a. Introduction
- b. New digital tools and solutions established to conduct business and commerce
 - i. Digital revolution due to smart phones, readily-available mobile applications, business and customer care applications by businesses and service providers
 - ii. Mobile internet density penetration to increase transactions and business volumes
 - iii. Customer-centric solutions and services to boost sales
 - iv. Innovative technologies and less capital intensive investment to improve ease and cost of doing business
 - v. More options available to consumers and business to attract audience worldwide
 - vi. Cheap internet and data bundles to facilitate lightning-fast communications



- vii. Remote applications to provide end-to-end interaction and more business expansion
- viii. Banking, software, remote applications for controlling entire manufacturing facilities are part of new digital revolution
- ix. Data is the new gold as it is cheaper, easier to handle and provides seamless connectivity
- c. Young population can contribute in robust learning
- d. Various mobile, data and telecommunication facilities available
 - e. Large consumer market available to experiment and find out new turnkey solutions for wholesale, retail and services industry
 - f. Opportunity through CPEC to launch fibre-optic network across the country to speed up communication
 - g. Better coordination among various mobile application- and solution-providing companies to facilitate

EXAM PACK

businesses

- h.** More investment from government and other digital tech giants to pave the way for digital communication
- i.** Arrival of Alibaba, Mastercard, Google and Facebook to facilitate business and economy
- j.** Pakistan benefit from digital revolution by raising awareness and literacy
- k.** It can target audience which can be easily apprised of digital tools for marketing, business and software

development

- l.** Online banking, payment and shopping to be made more fashionable and accessible
- m.** Information and communications technologies (ITCs) to be adopted
- n.** Incentives and exemptions to be offered to attract more investors

IMF bailouts: Roads to Stability or Recipes for Disaster

a. Introduction

b. Issues of Pakistan's economy

i. Flagging exports of Pakistan

1. Policy to boost exports and competitiveness of products in international markets
2. Narrow industrial base causing stagnation of manufacturing sector
3. Problem of de-industrialization

ii. Increase in fuel prices

iii. Slashing of development expenditure

iv. Fiscal deficit and poor revenue generation

1. Problems of tax bureaucracy
2. Revenue collection shortfall
3. Low Tax-to-GDP ratio

v. Current Account Deficit as threat to stabilization of economy

vi. Investor confidence

vii. Dearth of foreign direct investment

c. IMF deal:

i. On July 3, 2019, the Executive Board of IMF approved a 39-month arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan for an amount of US\$6 billion

ii. Program to achieve stabilization

1. Stabilization policy is a macroeconomic strategy enacted by governments and central banks to maintain healthy levels of economic growth and minimize price changes. Sustaining a stabilization policy requires monitoring the business cycle and adjusting benchmark interest rates to control aggregate demand in the economy.

iii. Program requires structural reforms

1. Structural reforms are essentially the measures that change the fabric of an economy, the institutional and regulatory framework in which businesses and people operate. They are designed to ensure the economy is fit and better able to realize its growth potential in a balanced way.
 - Tax revenue generation
 - Reform of tax machinery
 - Broadening of tax net
 - Phasing out subsidies

➤ Recovery of fuel costs through price adjustments (power sector)

➤ Privatization of loss-making PSEs

➤ Managing demand and supply

➤ Ease of doing business

d. Objectives:

i. to reduce economic vulnerabilities and generate sustainable and balanced growth

ii. fiscal consolidation to reduce public debt by greater tax revenue generation

iii. Averting balance of payment crisis due to trade imbalance

iv. reduction in current account deficit (CAD) by boosting foreign exchange reserves of the central bank and reduction in imports

v. Higher import tariffs so as to cut imports

vi. Credit ratings to improve

vii. build resilience while expanding social spending

viii. a flexible, market-determined exchange rate to restore competitiveness

ix. rebuild official reserves

x. to eliminate quasi-fiscal losses in the energy sector

xi. to strengthen institutions and enhance transparency

e. The Executive Board's approval allows for an immediate disbursement of US\$1 billion. The remaining amount will be phased over the duration of the program, subject to four quarterly reviews and four semi-annual reviews

f. Issues with IMF deal and impact on the economy

i. Increase in inflation due to higher value of imports, fuel prices and weaker devalued rupees

ii. Loss in value of rupee due to floating market determined exchange rate

iv. Higher fuel prices due to lower rupee value versus dollar

v. High interest rates and higher cost of borrowing which would dent business growth as more and more businesses would avoid borrowing from banks

vi. Slowing down of economic growth due to economic stabilization plan of IMF

vii. Circular debt and power sector losses to be passed on to consumers

g. Critical examination of IMF plan

i. Slows down economy as imports decline and manufacturing halts

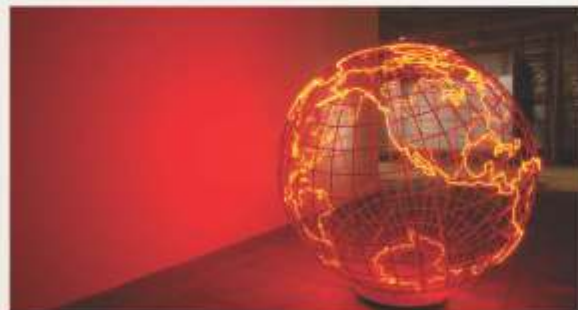
ii. Only relieves pressure on external account for a brief time

iii. Government expenditure and expenses reduces as government goes for belt tightening

iv. Government spends less to avoid fiscal deficit but it doesn't generate economic activity since many businesses thrive on government spending and business creation

v. Halts employment creation and adds to poverty

h. Conclusion



The lack or inability to focus is the biggest problem facing most CSS aspirants. They often complain that their time and attention is being consumed by so many things and that they fail to focus and give enough time to those things that are important and meaningful for a better preparation. Keeping in view the seriousness and depth of study required to get through CSS with flying colours, making conscious efforts to improve one's focus and give enough time to one's studies, removing all distractions from one's mind and surroundings assumes far greater importance. Since the next few months are very crucial for all CSS aspirants, let us look at a few ways in which you can strive to improve your concentration and focus.

1. Choose wisely

Unless your friends happen to be good study partners, study alone. Post a sign on your door telling roommates or members of your family to stay away. If you're studying at home, choose a quiet room with limited clutter. If your home environment is distracting, gather your study supplies and head over to a comfortable study spot. Create the best possible environment for studying before you open your books so that you don't have to pause mid-session to make a change.

2. When to study

Human bodies follow a circadian cycle which controls the bodily functions, such as body temperature, heart rate, hormone secretion and sleep patterns. Thus, there are different times of the day when individuals function at their best and when they just can't do any mental or challenging work. So, determine how your body clock runs and see at what time you can get the best out of your brain. Some people are more alert in the morning and some people study best at night when the world is asleep, while some people can't keep their eyes open after a good meal. So know your best time to study when your cognitive functioning, such as decision-making and memory, are at their peak and utilise it for studying, particularly memorising and learning. For most people, this optimal time is in the morning.

3. Ditch the Distractions

When sitting down to studying, distractions simply spell disaster. You need to consciously and firmly remove all things that may distract you from your study area and mind. A research by Dr



Smart Tips for

CSS Exam

7 tips to fire up your focus when studying



EXAM PACK

Glenn Wilson, a psychologist from King's College, London University, found that workers who were constantly distracted by phone calls and emails performed 10% lower in exams than their IQ predicted.

4. Better avoid music

Make sure that your study area is not too noisy because background noise has been found to be one of the main culprits in reducing learning efficiency and concentration. Music also hampers concentration though many students chose to listen to it when studying. Evidence suggests that listening to music also reduces reading efficiency in the same way that irrelevant speech does.

5. No use of phone, please!

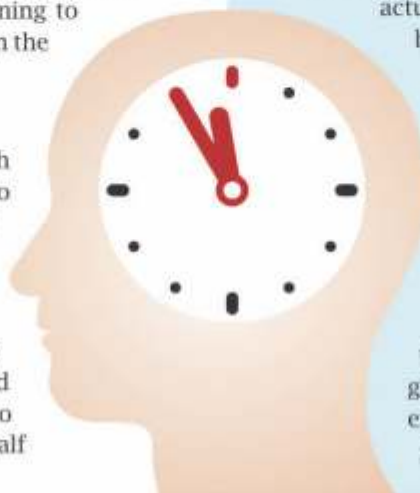
Keeping the phone within easy reach and picking it up every now and then to check for messages and updates is detrimental to studying well. We all know this, yet it is something that we all do. Switch your phone off. Set specific times at which you will pick up the phone or log on to the computer and for how long you will use it and stick to that. But make sure it is not after just half

attention. Thirst is not the best measure of hydration, so a decrease in your ability to focus is an early warning signal that it's time to drink up."

With summer fast approaching, keeping yourself hydrated with the right kind of drinks, such as fresh juices and water, not carbonated drinks, is very important. It is a good idea to keep a water bottle on your study table and take sips every now and then.

7. Take measured breaks

A study conducted at the University of Illinois actually advocates for scheduled study breaks to improve focus and attention. It is no secret that after doing something for a long time, a person loses interest and his/her performance declines. This has been described as 'vigilance decrement' by experts and they suggest taking a short break in the middle of a long task to re-energises the brain. Brief mental breaks will actually help you stay focused on your task! Being physically active and fit has a good effect on the brain and so many experts suggest that those who are in good physical condition performed



an hour as breaking your concentration that often so quickly will not get you anywhere.

6. Keep yourself hydrated

Eating well during exams is something that is talked about a lot, but not much focus is given to the need to drink water to stay hydrated when studying.

A study published in the Journal of Nutrition found a link between 'mild dehydration, so subtle that you don't really feel it', and lack of concentration. According to Dr Harris Lieberman, a co-author of the study, "When the brain detects even the smallest changes in physiology, it may begin operating at a suboptimal level to get your

better on tasks that required sustained attention.

So while many students are tempted to avoid all sports and outdoor activities during exam time, it is actually beneficial that they indulge in some kind of physical activity and exercise regularly to improve their energy levels and brain function.

Before and during exams, all students try to study and deliver their best, but those who plan well and chose to study in a way that is more productive are able to attain the results they desire. These tips are simple and something everyone can follow easily, you just have to discipline yourself. 📌

M. Sheraz

After nearly two decades, 2,400 soldiers killed, another 20,000 wounded, and as much as \$2 trillion spent, the United States signed a deal with the Taliban on Saturday, February 29, in Doha, the capital of Qatar. US envoy for peace in Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, and Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar signed the agreement that is meant to end America's longest war and pave the way for Afghan factions to bring 18 years of costly fighting in their country to an end. Central to the deal is a significant drawdown of U.S. troops and guarantees from the Taliban that the country will not become a safe haven for terrorists.

Basics of the Deal

US-Taliban peace deal, entitled "Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan which is not recognized by the United States as a state and is known as the Taliban and the United States of America," opens the way for direct negotiations between the insurgents and other Afghans, including the country's government, on a political future after Washington ends its military presence. The negotiations could also result in a ceasefire. Here are the main points in the agreement, and a look at how events could unfold. A gradual US troop withdrawal will begin. The United States has agreed to withdraw American troops from Afghanistan in exchange for assurances by the Taliban that it will deny sanctuary to terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda. Right now, the United States has about 13,000

troops in the country, down from about 100,000 at the peak of the war nearly a decade ago. They are supported by several thousand others from NATO allies. The two sides have agreed to a gradual, conditions-based withdrawal over 14 months. In the first phase, about 5,000 troops are to leave within 135 days. During the gradual withdrawal, the Taliban and the Afghan government would have to work out a more concrete power-sharing settlement. That timeframe would give the government the cover of American military protection while negotiating. Taliban pledge to break with Qaeda. The United States invaded Afghanistan because the Taliban government had given safe haven to Al-Qaeda, which conducted Sep 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the mainland. Over the years, even as Al-Qaeda has been decimated by years of US military operations, the Taliban refused to publicly disavow the group, which still pledges allegiance to the Taliban's supreme leader. As part of the deal, the Taliban commit to breaking with Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups and keeping them from using Afghan territory to stage attacks against the United States and its allies. The United States and the Taliban are to establish a joint monitoring body in Qatar, where their negotiations have been held, to assess progress on the commitments. Other issues include the release of prisoners and the lifting of international sanctions and travel bans on Taliban leaders. US officials say all those steps will be implemented gradually, and only if the Taliban meet their commitments. Complicated talks

After more than eighteen years of war in Afghanistan, the United States and the Taliban reached an agreement in what were both sides' most intensive efforts yet to end the Washington's longest war. The agreement, which was signed in Doha, Qatar, in the presence of leaders from Pakistan, Qatar, Turkey, India, Indonesia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, will pave the way for the US to gradually withdraw its troops. The two sides have long wrangled over the US demand for a ceasefire before the signing of the agreement, which has four points: a timeline of 14 months for the withdrawal of all US and NATO troops from Afghanistan; a Taliban guarantee that Afghan soil will not be used as a launchpad that would threaten the security of the US; the launch of intra-Afghan negotiations by March 10; and a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire.



US-Taliban Deal and the Future of Afghanistan

A long, arduous
journey to peace begins

between Afghans come next. The agreement between the United States and the Taliban unlocks a difficult but crucial next step: negotiations between the Taliban and other Afghans, including the government, over future power-sharing. Those talks are expected to start soon, within 10 days or so. But the Taliban, who led most of Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 before they were toppled by the US military invasion, refuse to recognize Afghanistan's democratic government. The goal of their insurgency has been returning to power and establishing rule based on their view of Islam. Other major issues, including women's rights and civil liberties, are also at stake. Many Afghan women have expressed concern that they have been sidelined from the process, and they fear that protections created for them over the past 18 years could be bargained away to the ultraconservative Taliban movement. Divisions inside Afghanistan will complicate the negotiations. The democratic side has been bitterly divided by a disputed election, with the main challenger declaring he would form his own government after President Ashraf Ghani won a second term in office. Deal tied to reducing bloodshed immediately. For much of the negotiating process, the American side demanded a ceasefire that could pause the bloodshed, in which dozens are killed daily, and create space for talks over the future of the country. With violence as their main leverage, the Taliban refused that demand in the early stages of the talks, saying they were willing to discuss it only in negotiations with other Afghans once the United States promised to withdraw its troops. Eventually, the two sides found a compromise: a significant "reduction in violence" that would not be called a ceasefire. The signing of the deal was conditioned on a seven-day test of that violence reduction, which officials said largely worked. Attacks across Afghanistan, which normally would number as many as 50 to 80 on any given day, dropped to below a dozen. The reduction in violence is expected to continue into the next phase of the process, until the two Afghan sides can agree to a more comprehensive ceasefire.

Challenges ahead

Although the deal is being welcomed all around the world, experts stress that the deal is only the first step to achieving lasting peace. The bigger challenge, they say, will be negotiating an agreement between the Islamist fundamentalist group and the Afghan government on Afghanistan's future.

The diplomatic effort to get the United States and the Taliban to agree to a deal took years. It is not unreasonable to assume talks between the Afghan government and the

Taliban could be a similarly lengthy effort. The Afghan government needs to assemble a negotiating team. But that could be an even more complicated task at the moment, as the country is in the midst of a deepening political crisis.

Disputed election results were announced in mid-February, and both President Ashraf Ghani and his main rival have declared victory. Ghani's rival has begun forcibly replacing governors in the north of the country and is threatening to set up a parallel government. All of this has left Kabul deeply divided and has the potential to undermine Ghani's mandate to form an inclusive team to negotiate with the Taliban.

Intra-Afghan Dialogue and the Concerns of Afghan Citizens

The next step toward any pathway for peace remains productive intra-Afghan dialogue to end the civil war that was concurrent with the US intervention. This could be the most complex stage as all parties must come to acceptable terms in regard to the renouncement of violence in favor of an enduring ceasefire, even though a democratically-focused Afghan government in Kabul is anathema to the Islamic Emirate ideal proposed by the Taliban. Within the country, individual political agendas and power networks encroach on any efforts to construct a unified state and as a result, induce ethno-nationalism between ethnic groups. Significant political will is required to overcome these obstacles.

As it currently stands, this layer of hypothetical peacemaking is already under pressure as the Ghani government shot down the timeline for a prisoner swap inherent in the US-Taliban deal. Detainees are a domestic matter thus the Afghan government has the right to reject such a proposal. A prisoner swap was meant to act as a confidence-

building exercise and it is already apparent that confidence is lacking due to strict timelines.

Circumstances are different now than they were following the toppling of the Islamic Emirate in 2001, so one must remain hopeful for identifiable progress. Firstly, although fragile, the security situation in Afghanistan has improved, as the Afghan National Army has slowly emerged as a cohesive force across the country. The Afghan police force has been highly militarized due to the environment in which it matured, and while that is beneficial for national security issues, it leaves domestic problems, such as crime management, something that is left to be desired. However, this nexus provides Afghan authorities with the means to demonstrate that they will defend the country and hopefully not succumb to a hypothetical Taliban-led upheaval of the established —



though problematic and young — political framework. Though Afghan forces take the lead in their operations, analysts often contend that a total foreign troop withdrawal is ill-advised as Afghan forces still require additional training and resources to ensure the basics of national security. Afghan citizens fear the repercussions as well.

Many Afghans raise women's rights and the rights of children as key concerns in any forthcoming dialogue with the Taliban. Since the NATO invasion in 2001, many benighted features of a Taliban regime, such as women banned from studying or working in public places, have become a thing of the past in urban areas. Afghan women and girls not only study at the highest levels now, but

generational problems linked to socio-economic issues. Therefore, compliance by the Taliban to lay down their arms and respect ceasefire agreements are an important factor in this regard. The majority of Afghans live in poverty without access to gainful employment opportunities. And further, potential opportunities available to Afghan citizens must take resources, social context, and economics into consideration. Afghan people must be consulted about finding the best ways for them to create beneficial scenarios in their lives so that those most vulnerable to joining insurgent organizations turn away from even the darkest financial activities.

In the context of intra-Afghan dialogue, the Taliban are faced with the difficult task of redefining their image to the Afghan people. Generations of Afghans — especially those who lived through the Taliban's rise to power and the violence of the two past decades — are understandably skeptical of their motives. If they hope to be considered a legitimate political party, they must stick to their promise to become engaged in the prosperous future of Afghanistan, rather than continue their past actions. Further, not only the Taliban's image must be rehabilitated, but additionally, the lives of fighters that will — hopefully and eventually — lay down their arms in favor of peace and national success.

Conclusion

One of the main lessons that should be learnt from the Afghan imbroglio is the failure of nation-building projects by foreign forces. While the US invaded Afghanistan in the aftermath of 9/11 as the Taliban were hosting Al Qaeda at the time this mission quickly turned into a more complicated 'civilising' project, as the Americans sought to remake the country in their own image, without realising the tribal and ethnic

complexities of Afghanistan. Similar tales of disaster have emerged in Iraq, Libya and Syria, where the US and other Western forces have toyed with regime change, with horrific results. Secondly, the government in Kabul must accept the Taliban as a political reality, even though both sides despise each other at the moment.

The fact is that unless Afghans trust each other and work together, no foreign-backed peace initiative will succeed, as the Mujahideen infighting after the Soviet withdrawal showed. And the Taliban must also pledge to respect the political process and work within democratic norms if they wish to see peace prevail in their homeland. ■



engage in the workforce as well. Such cases are not at optimal levels and women still face gender bias, but the lives they have experienced must not be sacrificed for the sake of making a deal with the Taliban. To state it simply, in the words of a young Afghan woman: "We as women need to tell the Taliban that this Afghanistan is not the Afghanistan from 17 years ago. This is a new Afghanistan." And yes, the country has changed significantly. It has media resources that connect it to the world and thus its younger generations are exposed to new ideas.

Prospects for peace are reliant on the creation of a non-violent space on Afghan territory so that the provinces and federal government can resolve entrenched

Simple and Compound Interest

1. A man borrowed some amount from his friend. After 3 years, he paid back Rs.10,400/- with 10% interest. How much amount had he borrowed?

- (a) Rs.7000 (b) Rs.7500
(c) **Rs.8000** (d) Rs.9000/-

2. A person took some amount with a certain interest for 1 year. But due to an increase of 2% in the interest rate, he had to pay Rs.60/- extra. How much amount did he borrow?

- (a) Rs.2500 (b) **Rs.3000**
(c) Rs.3500 (d) Rs.5000

3. A person took some amount with some interest for 2 years. Later, the interest rate was raised by 1% and he had to pay an extra Rs.120. How much amount did he take?

- (a) Rs.4000 (b) **Rs.6000**
(c) Rs.8000 (d) Rs.9000

4. A man borrowed a certain amount. After every 5 years, that is doubled. Calculate the rate of interest?

- (a) **20%** (b) 22%
(c) 25% (d) 30%

5. A man borrowed a certain amount. After every 8 years, that is tripled. Calculate the rate of interest?

- (a) 15% (b) 20%
(c) **25%** (d) 28%

6. A man sells a TV, on instalments, for Rs.9000 with 10% simple interest rate for 5 years. How much amount he paid for each instalment?

- (a) Rs.1000 (b) Rs.1200
(c) **Rs.1500** (d) Rs.1800

7. Find simple interest on Rs.6000 at 7.50% per annum for 3 years.

- (a) Rs.1200 (b) Rs.1250
(c) **Rs.1350** (d) Rs.1400

8. Find simple interest on Rs.7300 at 12% p.a. for the period from January 2007 to 18 April 2007.

- (a) **Rs.247.20** (b) Rs.248.50
(c) Rs.249.10 (d) Rs.294.50

9. Find simple interest on Rs.4000 at 15% p.a. for 9 months.

- (a) Rs.350 (b) **Rs.450**
(c) Rs.550 (d) Rs.650

10. Find simple interest on Rs.6000 at 10% p.a. for 2 years and 3 months.

- (a) Rs.1150 (b) Rs.1250
(c) **Rs.1350** (d) Rs.1450

11. Find simple interest on Rs.5000 at 12% p.a. for 73 days.

- (a) Rs.100 (b) **Rs.120**
(c) Rs.140 (d) Rs.190

12. Find the principal amount, if interest on it was Rs.1200 at 8% p.a. for 2 years.

- (a) Rs.5000 (b) Rs.7000
(c) **Rs.7500** (d) Rs.8000

13. In how many years will the sum of Rs.4000 yield an interest of Rs.1080/- at 9% p.a.?

- (a) 2 years (b) **3 years**
(c) 4 years (d) 5 years

14. In how many years will sum of Rs.6000/- yield an interest of Rs.1200/- at 8% p.a.?

- (a) 2 years (b) **2 1/2 years**
(c) 3 years (d) 4 years

15. At what rate of percent per annum will a sum of money double in 8 years?

- (a) 11.50% (b) **12.50%**
(c) 13.50% (d) 14.50%

16. The compound interest on a certain sum for 2 years is Rs 412 and the simple interest is Rs 400. What is the rate of interest per annum?

- (a) **4%** (b) 5%
(c) 6% (d) 8%

17. An amount of money grows up to Rs 11520 in 2 years and up to Rs 13824 in 3 years on compound interest. What is the sum?

- (a) **Rs.8000** (b) Rs.9000
(c) Rs.10000 (d) Rs.12000

18. A man deposits Rs 1000 in one bank at 8% pa and Rs 3000 in another bank at rate 4% pa. Find the rate of interest for the whole sum.

- (a) 4% (b) **5%**
(c) 6% (d) 7%

19. A certain sum of money amounts to Rs.7000 in 8 years at 5% per annum. What is the sum?

- (a) Rs.4000 (b) **Rs.5000**
(c) Rs.6000 (d) Rs.7000

20. An amount of money grows to Rs. 67600 in two years and to Rs. 87880 in 3 years on interest compounded annually. What is the rate of interest?

- (a) 10% (b) 20%
(c) **30%** (d) 20%

21. A certain amount becomes Rs. 627200 in two years and Rs.702464 in three years. If the interest is compounded yearly what is the rate of interest?

- (a) 8% (b) **10%**

- (c) **12%** (d) 15%

22. A person invested Rs. 25000 in bank for 2 years at simple interest of 30% per annum. After 2 years, he invested the whole amount in another scheme for 3 years at C.I at 10%. Find interest.

- (a) Rs. 24240 (b) Rs. 26240
(c) **Rs.28240** (d) Rs. 30240

23. What would be the compound interest obtained on an amount of Rs.4400 at a rate of 10% p.a. after 2 years?

- (a) Rs.824 (b) **Rs.924**
(c) Rs.972 (d) Rs.998

24. What would be the compound interest obtained on an amount of Rs.2700 at a rate of 9% p.a. after 2 years?

- (a) Rs.307.87 (b) Rs.407.87
(c) **Rs.507.87** (d) Rs.607.87

25. The difference between simple and compound interests on a certain sum for 3 years at 5% is Rs.61/- Find the sum.

- (a) **Rs.8000** (b) Rs.9000
(c) Rs.10000 (d) Rs.12000

Interest is the cost of borrowing money, where the borrower pays a fee to the lender for using the latter's money. The interest, typically expressed as a percentage, can be either simple or compounded. Simple interest is based on the principal amount of a loan or deposit, while compound interest is based on the principal amount and the interest that accumulates on it in every period. Since simple interest is calculated only on the principal amount of a loan or deposit, it's easier to determine than compound interest.

Simple Interest

Simple interest is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Simple Interest} = P \times r \times n$$

where:

P=Principal amount

r=Annual interest rate

n=Term of loan, in years

Compound Interest

Compound interest accrues and is added to the accumulated interest of previous periods; it includes interest on interest, in other words. The formula for compound interest is:

$$\text{Compound Interest} = P \times (1+r)^n - P$$

where:

P=Principal amount

r=Annual interest rate

t=Number of years interest is applied

INTERVIEW

“Without an iota of doubt, WTI is one of the best institutes for the preparation of competitive examinations like CSS.”

In Conversation with **ALI HASSAN RAZA (PCS)** 57th in Pakistan, CSS 2018-19

JWT Editorial Board



Wahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background?

Ali Hassan Raza (AHR): I acquired basic education till class 7 from my hometown, Jauharabad. Then, I enrolled myself in Cadet College Palandri, AJK from where I completed my matriculation and FSc with flying colours. Then, I earned a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from UET, Lahore, with distinction, followed by several certifications. I also earned an LLB degree from Punjab University.

JWT: Since you have been allocated to the Pakistan Customs Service (PCS), what was the feature of this service that attracted you most?

AHR: The reason behind opting for PCS was that I am naturally attracted towards the job, which is more or less of policing in nature. My background and experience of studying in a cadet college made me select this uniform service.

JWT: How was your experience at World Times Institute (WTI)?

AHR: Without an iota of doubt, WTI is one of the best institutes for the preparation of competitive examinations like CSS. This Institute played a pivotal role in my success by providing me with proper guidance and opportunity to interact with the finest civil servants. Sir Asim Raza (PAS), who writes essay writing tips for JWT magazine, was my mentor.

JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to making a difference in written part of CSS exam?

AHR: For me, if one wants to make a real difference in written part, one must follow four-pronged strategy viz.

1. Do not beat about the bush.
2. Write neatly, no cuttings, use black and blue markers for headings.
3. Complement your answers with latest indices, facts and references.
4. Every subject has its own jargons. Do communicate with the examiner in that.

JWT: Generally, compulsory subjects are considered low-scoring, what was your strategy to get through these very papers?

AHR: Yes, compulsory subjects are generally considered low-scoring. However, aspirants can still perform exceptionally well by preparing them well and by going an extra mile for MCQs. There should be no spellings or grammatical mistakes. Illustrate your answer with drawing figures and maps, where required.

JWT: What was the key to your phenomenal success?

AHR: I worked with persistence. Whatever you do, do with full passion. Secondly, I remained optimistic throughout my CSS journey. I scored zero marks in essay paper

in my first attempt but I didn't lose hope. I improved my writing skills and scored 65 marks in my last mock essay.

JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks?

AHR: To get maximum marks in written part, following strategy should be adopted:

1. There should be clarity of thought and coherence in your answer.

Detailed Marks Sheet

Subject	Marks
Compulsory Subjects	
Essay	41
Précis & Composition	49
Everyday Science	59
Current Affairs	56
Pakistan Affairs	36
Islamiat	53
Optional Subjects	
International Relations	128
Public Administration	88
Agriculture & Forestry	57
International Law	51
Geography	82
Total Written	700
Viva Voce	144
Grand Total	844

INTERVIEW

- Each answer must be limited to six pages. Do not go beyond that limit.
- The answer should be well-structured.
- Have an overview of Examiners' Report from official FPSC website.

JWT: Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?

AHR: Not exactly; there is no word limit but do remember that every answer should be given equal time, i.e. 40 minutes. Along with that, do not compromise quality over quantity.

JWT: How did you structure your Essay and what was your strategy for Précis and Composition Paper?

AHR: I wrote essay on "The threat of global warming and the ways to counter it." I made an outline (3 pages) in the start. Then, I wrote a well-structured introduction and garnished it with impressive words. The body of the essay was in very simple language. I mentioned pragmatic strategies as recommendations, which were followed by a well-chalked-out conclusion.

JWT: How a new aspirant should start his preparations and what areas should he focus?

AHR: First, one should be mentally prepared for the exam, and seek family's support. One should choose optional subjects very wisely. Aspirant should also join a well-reputed CSS academy or get guidance from an experienced CSS mentor.

JWT: How did you handle de-motivations?

AHR: This is a question, which is very close to my heart. This is the feeling, which every aspirant has to confront during CSS preparation, and I, too, faced that. Always prepare a plan B. I was myself not sure about my success but I kept going. Leave the rest to Allah Almighty. He is the best planner.

My tips on:

Selection of optional subjects

There is nothing like trending or non-trending subjects. You never know which subject is in the hit list of the examiner. Select optional subjects by taking your educational background and interest into consideration. Make a combination of subjects that complement each other.

Notes-making

Rapid Fire

Your inspiration	Parents and my paternal uncle
Attempts	02
Qualification	B.Sc. (Electrical) with distinction - Bronze Medallist and LLB (PU)
Alma mater	UET, Lahore
Schooling medium	English
Your study schedule	10-12 hours a day
Your sources	FPSC-recommended books, research papers, Internet, JWT magazine, Economist, Foreign Affairs, Dawn, The Nation
Group preferences	1. PSP 2. PCS 3. PAS
Why these groups	They provide a raft of opportunities for vertical and horizontal growth
Why PCS?	Pakistan Customs is the guardian of Pakistan's borders against movement of contraband goods, smuggling and money laundering. Moreover, it is a uniform service. Such challenging and interesting service suits my professional ambition.
Hobbies	Equestrianism (Horse riding), watching movies, hunting, travelling and hanging out with friends
Notable achievements	1. Completed B.Sc. Electrical Engineering from UET with distinction 2. Henry Dunant Award for Best Performance, IEEE RDP, Pakistan 3. Best Student Branch Award, IEEE South Asia 4. Best Shooter-2009, Cadet College Palandri 5. Best Student Volunteer Award, IEEE Lahore Section 6. Best Performance Award, IEEE USA
Fave personality	Nelson Mandela
Fave book(s)	'The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money, and Power' by Daniel Yergin.
Fave quote	"Develop success from failures. Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success." —Dale Carnegie
Secret of your success	Allah's grace, continuous encouragement from family, persistence, optimism, learning from failures.
Role model	My parents

I used to make notes on MS Word and Microsoft OneNote. This helped me to update them very easily; it reduces page consumption, which later on has a positive psychological impact. I was able to revise each subject for 2-3 times not in a month—BUT IN A DAY.

Revision

For me, revision plays a key role in preparation for CSS exam. Aspirants should wind up the notes-making process by the end of October. After that, they should appear in mock exams and start revision.

My Interview Experience

It was a wonderful experience. In the start, I was asked to tell some facts about my native district and my college. More than 60 percent of my interview revolved around current affairs; with questions on topic ranging from Yellow Vest Movement, the political situation in Spain, Netherlands to the US, Kashmir and Afghanistan. In think the key to success in interview is that you do not fidget and answer with full confidence and a smiling face. If you do not know the answer, just apologize, there is no harm in saying "sorry". Appear in mock interviews as much as you can.



INTERVIEW



“Reading magazines, especially Jahangir's World Times (JWT) and listening news on electronic media enhances General Knowledge of a person to a considerable extent.”

In Conversation with
ALI HASSAN RAZA (PCS)
57th in Pakistan, CSS 2018-19

JWT Editorial Board

Jahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background?

Babar Ali Rai (BAR): I started from APS Quetta. Later, I did matriculation from Boys High School More Khunda in district Nankana Sahib. After that, I enrolled myself in Government College University (GCU), Lahore, from where I completed FSc (pre-engineering) and graduated in Electrical Engineering.

JWT: How much helpful did you find Jahangir's World Times (JWT) in your preparation for PMS exam?

BAR: World Times magazine proved extremely instrumental in my success as it contained highly pertinent articles related to current affairs which helped me in English Essay and General Knowledge papers. JWT's Interview Series is very helpful for the aspirants. I have been reading this magazine for many years.

Advice for Fresh Aspirants

Offer prayers regularly and have faith in Allah Almighty. Also, believe in your abilities. You should make your own notes by consulting at least 2 recommended books, besides going through research papers, newspapers and magazines like JWT. "Reading more and writing" more is the key to success. Write as much as you can to ace this exam. High aim demands consistent hard work, loyalty and commitment to your goals, and utmost patience. Never disappoint when you face failure and impediments but learn from these by overcoming your weaknesses. Stay away from negative-minded people and stay focused on your goals.

JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to getting through compulsory papers of PMS exam, especially that of General Knowledge?

BAR: I believe an aspirant should follow these three things:

1. Read at least two recommended books and make your own notes.
2. Intelligent use of the Internet for extensive study on any topic (only from authentic sources).
3. One MUST consult past papers and strictly follow the

outline given by PPSC.

For General Knowledge paper

Solve past papers besides preparing for it from online sources. Moreover, so also understand how the examiner divides this paper into different portions. Then, prepare for all these portions separately from diverse sources to score exceptionally well in it. Do not rely on a single source. I know, aspirants mostly resort to solving the past papers only, but the trend has changed now.

JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks in the written part of PMS exam?

BAR: I would suggest a three-point strategy for that:

First, understand what is being asked in the question statement, and set your domain of answer. Also, make a very short outline of it.

Second, write a well-structured answer with a succinct introduction. Add relevant headings, diagrams,

flowcharts and facts and figures in the body.

Third, try to add a paragraph containing your critical analysis on the topic prior to your conclusion.

JWT: How did you structure your Essay?

BAR: In essay paper, I believe the most important thing is the selection of the right topic. Take about 5 minutes to understand what is being asked in the topic statement, and then take a clear stance by directly hitting that. Logical and reasoned argumentation to support your stance, relevance to the topic and coherence embellish

INTERVIEW

your essay. I made rough outline and the introduction at the end of sheet. Then, I started to write essay from start by leaving first 4 pages blank. In last 15-20 minutes, I rewrote outline and introduction on those pages. Rough work allows modification and rephrasing of outline while writing an essay keeping in view the time limit. I believe a well-structured outline with succinct and lucid introduction play a pivotal role in your success in this crucial paper. I tried to build solid arguments from multiple angles and supported them with pertinent examples and facts. I would suggest that aspirants should make outline in sentence form.

JWT: What was your strategy for the General Knowledge paper?

BAR: For GK paper, I followed the contents given by PPSC and prepared every section separately. Computer, mathematics and science portions should be prepared from online sources as these sections do make a difference. Moreover, I solved many

Rapid Fire

Your inspiration	Inspiration comes from within
Attempts	01
Schooling medium	Both Urdu and English
Your qualification	BSc. Electrical Engineering
Alma mater(s)	GCU, Lahore
Your study schedule	6-8 hours a day
Your sources	Quality books, English newspapers, research papers, the Internet and JWT magazine
Your strength	Persistence, commitment and determination to achieve my goals.
Hobbies & activities	Travelling and exploring the beauty of Pakistan, playing cricket
Fave personality	Hazrat Ali (RA)
Fave book	The Magic of Thinking Big by David J. Schwartz
Fave quote	"Hard work beats the talent if talent doesn't work hard." — Tim Notke
Secret of your success	Persistent hard word work and parents' prayers.
Your role model	My father, Rai Zulfiqar Ali (Sub Major (R) Pak Army)

My Interview Experience

My interview experience was remarkably excellent. As I was already serving as Sub-Inspector in Lahore Police, it helped me a lot to maintain my body language strong and positive, and my confidence never shook during the interview. Mr Chairman and member Nasir Durrani looked very satisfied as I remained calm, composed and humble during the whole process. Moreover, I was asked multiple questions on my optional subject, i.e. Physics, and also on police reforms, current affairs and national and international issues. I answered with logic and reasoning to the satisfaction of the panellists.

For those who are preparing for the interview, I would like to give some tips:

past papers and read English newspapers, Foreign Affairs magazine, Economist and world Times to stay updated on current affairs.

JWT: Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?

BAR: I believe an answer must be to the point and relevant to what is being asked whether it takes only 2 pages. Do not exaggerate your answer to only fill up the sheets. Write as much as you can to justify your stance. However, the only limit one should keep in mind is that of time.

JWT: Is it better to attempt optional papers in Urdu or one should go with English only?

BAR: I think, it is more convenient to attempt optional papers in English. The books and other reading material is available mostly in English. So, one does face difficulties in attempting paper in Urdu.

JWT: How one should choose Optional Subjects?

BAR: Selection of optional subjects plays a vital role in your success. So, two factors must be kept in mind

while choosing optional subjects in PMS:

1. Your interest in the subject as well as your educational background.
2. Scoring trend of the subject and accessibility of the past papers.

JWT: Who deserves the credit for your success?

BAR: First of all, the credit for my success goes to my parents, brothers and my sister who always prayed for, encouraged and motivated me. Secondly, I am also indebted to my respected teachers, seniors and friends who guided me well in this journey.

JWT: As interviewers usually grill the interview candidates, how did you manage the situation?

BAR: Frankly speaking, the panellists did not grill me at all as my answers were very straightforward, logical and much satisfactory to them. Actually, your positive body language is a manifestation of unflinching self-confidence, and during 34-minute-long discussion with the panelists, my confidence did not shake for a single moment, though I had to drop some questions.





Behavioural Change and Civil Service

Here it would be equally important to make distinction between civil service and bureaucracy. Bureaucracy is a form of organization/hierarchy, whereas civil service, on the contrary, is a name given to the body of government servants. Similarly, bureaucracy is a theoretical construct while civil service is a functioning reality. Bureaucracy being a kind of organization/hierarchy can be adopted by any organization or agency whereas civil service is meant only for government servants.

In Pakistan, there is an established system of selection and in-service training of new entrants in civil service. Those who qualify written test and interview of examination for Civil Superior Services (CSS) are offered a position in BS 17, in twelve occupational groups, as per their merit and quota. Next comes the process of pre-service training imparted to them at Civil Services Academy (CSA). The training period spans 35-40 weeks comprising different components meant to impart skills, knowledge and socioeconomic dynamics of society, besides inculcating in them etiquettes, compassion and attitudinal change. It is expected that on conclusion all trainee officers would demonstrate at least a minimum acceptable standard besides qualifying examination conducted at the end of training.

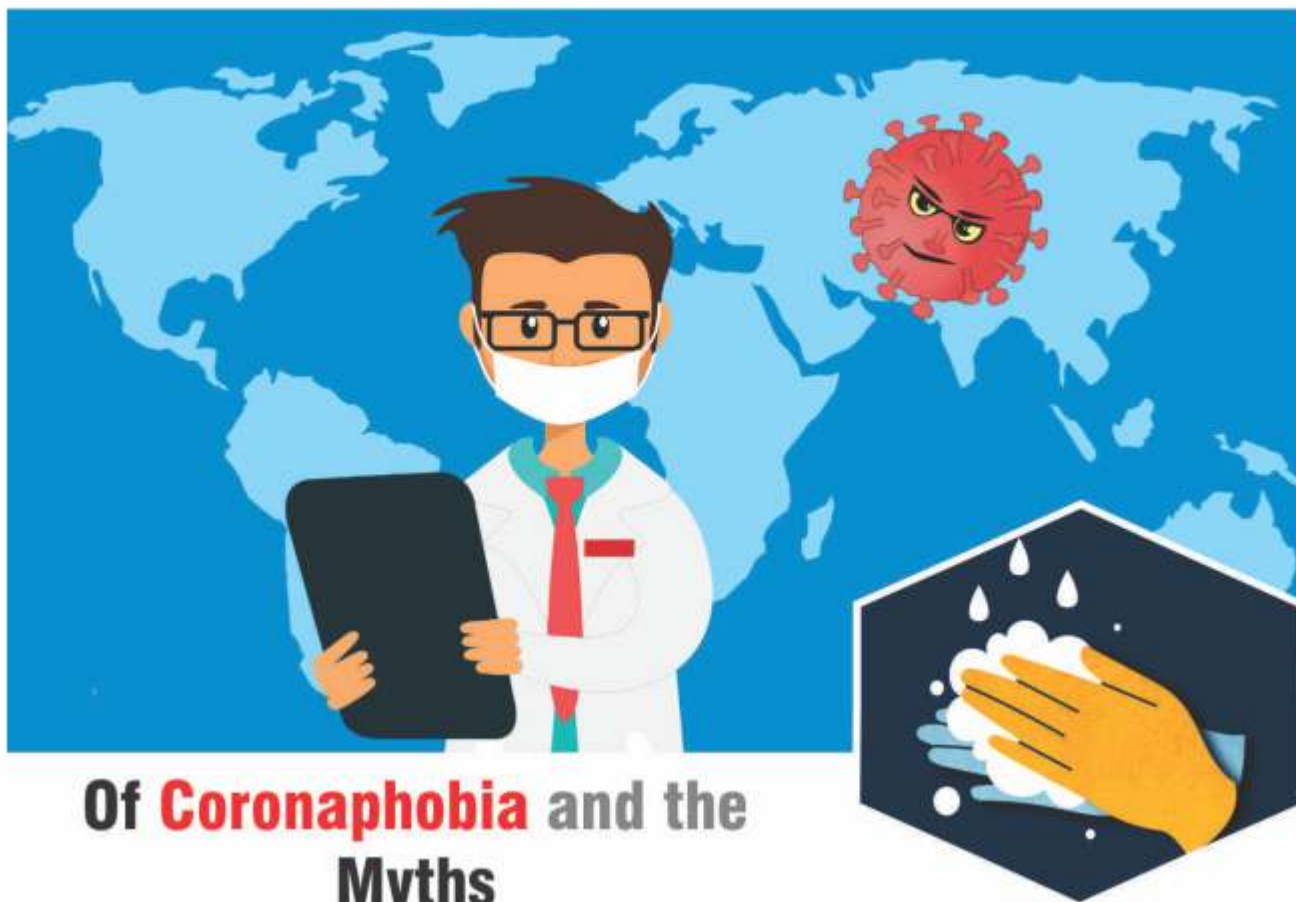
As for the question of the performance of officers in the field, the answer, unfortunately, is not encouraging so far. They lack commitment and dedication, and barring a few, they do not take their assignments as a challenge. There are a number of reasons behind this state of affairs, and the most fundamental one is the dearth of

Civil service is considered the backbone of a country's whole administrative setup, and all affairs of the government are managed, run and supported by experienced and knowledgeable persons who have been trained right from the induction into civil service. They are called civil servants. After independence from the yoke of foreign rule, Pakistan inherited a system of civil service, i.e. Indian Civil Service, which was created to rule and control the people of the Indian Subcontinent through coercion and force. It was not in any way to serve the people, and the civil servants of that era were the puppets in the hands of colonial rulers. The same attitude was also inherited to civil servants (Civil Service of Pakistan) after independence, and our rulers continued to use them on the same pattern to rule the people and victimize their opponents whether for personal reasons or for political gains. Over the years, civil service in Pakistan has undergone drastic changes as far as its methodology in maintaining power and influence is concerned.

professional trainers not only during pre-service training but also in post-induction training. That is why we see lack of discipline and attitudinal problems on the part of even senior officers while coming across the people. Currently, services of no professional experts are available to design, formulate and devise implementation strategy aimed to get a solid output which is again measureable in terms of its results and far-reaching effects. The officers are constantly burdened with plethora of information to which they soon develop the feelings of monotony. There is no doubt that these new entrants to civil service come from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds. Since the majority belongs to upper middle class, therefore they are more aware of the dynamics of society and how people look at civil servants. It is generally perceived that civil servants are corrupt, arrogant, inefficient and inaccessible. On the other hand, these new entrants start thinking that the society has bestowed upon them this

status. These perceptions, in return, play an important role in formation and influencing the conduct and behaviour of the officers in their professional career.

No major changes so far have been under consideration as part of civil service reforms. Still, serving the training institution is not included in the preference or priority list of officers. To make training valued, its purposes and philosophy are required to be redefined. Therefore, a partnership among professionals, bureaucrats and academia is a must to bring a turnaround while undertaking any reform agenda that includes behavioural change and strengthening of training institutions.



Of Coronaphobia and the Myths

Abdul Rasool Syed



One of the most prevalent myths pertaining to coronavirus is that getting COVID-19 is no less than a death sentence. That's not true! About 81 percent of people who are infected with corona virus have mild cases of COVID-19. According to a study published on February 18 by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, about 13.8 percent report severe illness, meaning thereby that they have shortness of breath, or require supplemental oxygen. About 4.7 percent are critical which means that they face respiratory failure, multi-organ failure or septic shock. The data thus far suggests that only around 2.3 percent of people infected with COVID-19 die from the virus. It reflects that people who are older or have shaky immune system are most at risk of having severe disease or complications.

Amid global fear, ignited by coronavirus, different myths pertaining to this global contagion have also surfaced. People obsessed with coronaphobia blindly believe in such myths. They find them as panacea to ward off deadly infectious pathogen, scientifically termed as COVID-19. There are a myriad of myths surrounding the spread of coronavirus and protective measures adopted to fight this lethal infection. This piece is aimed at debunking such myths and providing JWT readers with authentic, reliable and effective blueprint to mitigate the impact of this increasingly alarming virus as much as possible.

Another myth associated with coronavirus is that if you are infected with it "you'll know by yourself". No, you won't! COVID-19 causes wide range of symptoms, many of which appear in other respiratory illnesses such as the flu and the common cold. Specifically, common symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and difficulty in breathing, and rarer symptoms include dizziness, nausea, vomiting and a runny nose. In severe cases, the disease can progress into a serious pneumonia-like illness—but at an early stage, infected people may show no symptoms at all.

Moreover, one of the most circulated myths related to this pandemic on social media is that COVID-19 cannot survive in areas with hot and humid climates. It is also a misleading assumption. From the evidence so far, the COVID-19 virus can be transmitted in all areas, including areas with hot and humid weather. Regardless of climate, it is advisable to adopt protective measures if you live in, or travel to, an area reporting COVID-19. Furthermore, taking hot bath is also being propagated as a measure to remain pro

COVID-19**How can people protect themselves?**

Wash hands thoroughly with soap



Cover your face when coughing and sneezing



Face masks optional - scientists doubt their effectiveness

and onions are healthy foods that may have some antimicrobial properties. However, there is no evidence from the current outbreak that consuming garlic and onions have protected people from the new coronavirus.

"Vitamin C supplements can be coronavirus repellents," like other earlier mentioned myths, it is also being widely propagated. Researchers have yet to find any evidence that vitamin C supplements can render people immune to COVID-19 infection. In fact, for most people, taking extra vitamin C does not even ward off common cold, though it may shorten its duration if you catch one. That said, vitamin serves essential roles in the human body and supports normal immune function.

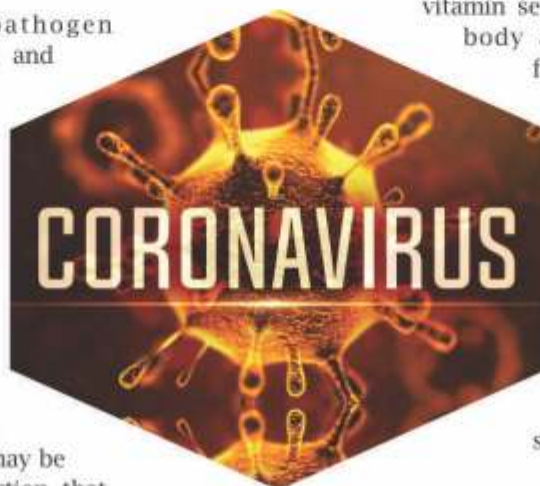
As an antioxidant, this vitamin neutralizes charged particles called free radicals that can damage tissues in the body. It also helps the body synthesize hormones, build collagen and seal off vulnerable connective tissue against pathogens. So yes, vitamin C should absolutely be included in your daily diet if you want to maintain a healthy immune system. But mega dosing on

tected from this deadly pathogen (coronavirus). It is also a myth and hence, will not help you cope with coronavirus. Normally, body temperature remains 36.5°C to 37°C, regardless of the temperature of your bath or shower. Actually, taking a hot bath with extremely hot water can be harmful as it can burn you. The best way to protect yourself against COVID-19 is by frequently cleaning your hands. By doing this, you eliminate viruses that may be on your hands, and avoid infection that could occur by, then, touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.

To add, another myth that is being widely disseminated is that coronavirus can be transmitted through mosquito bite. It is also false. To date, there has been neither any information nor evidence to prove this. The new coronavirus is a respiratory virus which spreads primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose. That's why saying that it may spread through mosquito bite is unfounded.

Another interesting myth is that spraying alcohol or chlorine over your body can kill COVID-19. It is totally wrong and ludicrous. Spraying such substances can be harmful to clothes or mucous membranes, i.e. eyes, mouth. Beware, both alcohol and chlorine can be useful to disinfect surfaces, but they need to be used under appropriate recommendations.

More interesting is the use of onions and garlic to kill the deadly coronavirus. Garlic

**CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC****COVID-19**

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, a new type of coronavirus detected in China in late 2019.

Data shows the disease is mild in 80 percent of patients, severe in 13 percent, and critical in 6 percent.

Most common symptoms:

- Fever**
- Fatigue**
- Dry cough**

Some patients may also have:

- Aches and pains**
- Runny nose**
- Sore throat**
- Shortness of breath**
- Diarrhoea**

In critical cases, COVID-19 can cause severe pneumonia or a multiple-organ failure and can lead to death.



CORONAVIRUS

MYTH

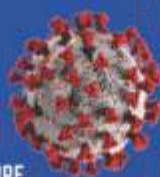
- A VACCINE TO CURE COVID-19 IS AVAILABLE.
- IT CAN BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH MOSQUITO BITES.
- EATING GARLIC CAN PREVENT INFECTION.
- ANTIBIOTICS CAN TREAT THE VIRUS.

FACT

- IT CANNOT BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH GOODS MANUFACTURED IN CHINA OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY REPORTING COVID-19 CASES.
- PEOPLE OF ALL AGES CAN BE AFFECTED.
- WASHING YOUR HANDS OFTEN, NOT TOUCHING YOUR FACE, AND STAYING HOME WHEN YOU'RE SICK IS THE BEST FORM OF PREVENTION.

CORONAVIRUS

- FEVER
- COUGH
- SHORTNESS OF BREATH
- SYMPTOMS APPEAR 2-14 DAYS AFTER EXPOSURE



FLU

- FEVER
- COUGH
- SORE THROAT
- HEADACHES
- FATIGUE (TIREDNESS)
- MUSCLE OR BODY ACHES
- RUNNY OR STUFFY NOSE

ALLERGIES

- SNEEZING
- ITCHY, RUNNY OR BLOCKED NOSE
- ITCHY, RED, WATERING EYES
- WHEEZING, CHEST TIGHTNESS, SHORTNESS OF BREATH, COUGH

supplements is unlikely to lower the risk of catching COVID-19, and may at most give you a "modest" advantage against the virus, should you become infected. No evidence suggests that other so-called immune-boosting supplements—such as zinc, green tea or Echinacea—help to prevent COVID-19, either.

Moreover, another myth that needs to be debunked is that new coronavirus affect only older people. In fact, it can affect people of all ages. However, older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as

asthma, diabetes, heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. WHO advised people of all ages to take steps to protect themselves from the virus; for example, by following good hand hygiene and good respiratory hygiene.

"Kids are immune to the new corona virus." This also amounts to a humongous myth attached with COVID-19. Children can definitely catch COVID-19, though initial reports suggested fewer cases in children compared with adults. For example, a Chinese study from Hubei province released in February found that of more than 44,000 cases of COVID-19, about only 2.2 percent involved children under age 19.

However, more recent studies suggest children are as likely as adults to become infected. In a study reported on March 05, researchers analyzed data from more than 1,500 people in Shenzhen, and found that children potentially exposed to the virus were just as likely to become infected as adults were. Regardless of age, about 7-8 percent of contacts of COVID-19 cases later tested positive for the virus.

It is also a myth that antibiotics can prevent you from being affected by COVID-19. Realistically speaking, antibiotics do not work against viruses, but for bacteria. The new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a virus and, therefore, antibiotics should not be used as a means of prevention or treatment. However, if you are hospitalized for the COVID-19, you may receive antibiotics because bacterial co-infection is possible.

"Packages from China are not safe." This, too, is a popular myth that is being advanced exponentially by the people haunted by coronaphobia. However, according to World Health Organization, it is safe to receive letters or packages from China. The research has found that coronaviruses don't survive long on objects such as letters and packages. Based on what we know about similar coronaviruses such as MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV, experts think this new corona virus survives poorly on surfaces.

A past study found that these related coronaviruses can stay on surfaces such as metal, glass or plastic for as long as nine days, according to a study published February 6 in 'The Journal of Hospital Infection'. But, the surfaces present in packaging are not ideal for the virus to survive. Finally, the funniest myth around coronavirus is that if you eat in Chinese restaurant in Pakistan, you would be infected with COVID-19. By that logic, you would also have to avoid Italian, Korean, Japanese and Iranian restaurants, given that those countries have also been facing an outbreak.

To conclude, we must abandon our clinical attitude in dealing with this global contagion since it is the question of our survival as human race. We must act upon the advice given by World Health Organization religiously and adopt preventive measures as suggested; after all, prevention is better than cure. ■

Peace Deal between Taliban and USA

Implications, Predicaments and the Way Forward

Mairaj ul Hamid Nasri



The theoretical framework of the deal is now set, but its implementation on the ground and manifestation in the Arg (Afghan Presidential Palace in Kabul) are yet to be seen. The United States has done a tremendous, yet a tricky, job by accepting Taliban as a legitimate political force in Afghanistan. It is now out of the negotiations, which, according to the deal, will be Intra-Afghan while the US will only be an observer. The United States will withdraw completely in phases in 14 months provided that Taliban stick to their promises made in the deal.

The way Afghan peace process has reached its culmination is unique, intriguing, thrilling and ideal in some ways. All major global and regional actors were involved, in one way or the other, in this process. It is indeed a unique event that a sovereign state was involved in bringing a non-state actor to the negotiating table through every possible measure. All the stakeholders were keen to end this saga now. Both sides were exhausted after fighting the fruitless war for almost 19 years, yet none of them was ready to disarm itself. The global and regional actors were involved and each of them was trying to secure its respective interests on the Afghan land. Countries like Russia, Iran and China, which were erstwhile the enemies of the Taliban, were seen supporting them to thwart the rise of ISIS in Afghanistan and to secure a clear position in Afghanistan after US withdrawal. All of them have facilitated the peace process in their own capacity.

The intriguing part is interesting, too, in a sense that the globally-declared terrorist outfit and its banned members were recognized, slowly and gradually, as a legitimate power—it has posed several questions to the future researchers to study. The thrilling part of the process is cancellation, and resumption, of the talks on crucial

At last, the world has seen the much-awaited moment on February 29, 2020, when a peace deal between the United States of America and the Taliban was inked in Doha, Qatar. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, and Taliban's deputy leader and chief negotiator, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, signed the deal from their respective sides. Representatives of global and regional players, as well as a number of Taliban leaders were present on this occasion. Signing of the deal, indeed, is an achievement, but its implementation remains a daunting challenge.



stages that has made the process more attractive and important. The appointment of an Afghan-American for the said purpose added to the saga as an Afghan was supposed to represent USA to hold talks with the native people of his own country of birth; probably because he knew the inside politics along with strengths and lacunae in the Taliban outfit. This strategy worked very well.

The process may be termed as an ideal in few ways because of the soft approach adopted by a sovereign state against an effective non-state actor for ending a war that spanned nearly two decades. The process has contributed in many ways to the development and implementation of new tactics, strategies, compromises, adaptation of confidence-building measures (CBMs), tit for tat and carrot and stick policies from both sides which can be followed and applied in the future by researchers, academicians, and policymakers at individual and state levels.

Apart from adaptation of these approaches in achieving the deal, the real challenge is its implementation inside a

Noor, Abdurrah Rasul Sayyaf and many other politicians and warlords will also be waiting for their share in power. In this scenario, implementation of the Doha Accord and power sharing with the Taliban is a very challenging job. Ashraf Ghani was the first person who resisted the deal at first by denying release of Taliban prisoners. The proponents of status quo and those working in the Kabul administration will definitely resist or try to apply delaying tactics against materialization of Intra-Afghan dialogue. In the first stage, a team of negotiators was supposed to be constituted by the Afghan government that would talk to the Taliban. But, its formation was delayed due to deadlock between Dr Ghani and Dr Abdullah. The civil society and the media working in Kabul have their stakes in the current regime and are likely to resist the Taliban in resuming Kabul's power corridor. States like India will try their best to instigate the forces working against the intra-Afghan dialogue. Some analysts suggest that Dr Abdullah's announcement of a parallel government is backed by India as it wants to



state where the state is not run by a single government. The incumbent Afghan president Dr Ashraf Ghani has won the recent elections but the runner-up candidate, Dr Abdullah Abdulahlah, also took oath as the president and announced a parallel government the same day Ashraf Ghani was sworn in. Prior to this, Zalmay Khalilzad's struggle of convincing Dr Abdullah had failed.

Another important player in Afghan politics is Abdul Rashid Dostum who has worked with President Ghani in the previous National Unity Government as Vice President. However, he is now not in a position to take side with Ashraf Ghani and has not even accepted Khalilzad's offer for sharing of power with Dr Ghani. The ethnic division in Afghanistan is at its peak now. Hizb-e-Islami Afghanistan's (HIA) head Engr. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has also lost the elections but will certainly be concerned with the power distribution in Kabul. Other ethnic leaders, i.e. Muhammad Muhaqqiq, Atta Muhammad

counter its rival's (Pakistan's) role in finalization of the peace deal.

Regional players, who have played a constructive role in making this deal a reality, will go all-out to get the deal implemented, and to restore Taliban's political power. While concluding the whole debate, one may conclude that amidst the prevailing situation in Afghanistan, the country may see another civil war, if the deal is not implemented in its true letter and spirit. Some Afghans have blamed the regional states for destabilizing Afghanistan time and again, but time proved that the regional players, especially Pakistan, facilitated the process and made it successful. The ball is now in Afghans' own court. They have to set with themselves and have to decide by their own for their future political system. Let's hope for the best and see the upcoming ups and downs in the new phase of Afghan Peace Process, i.e. implementation of Intra-Afghan dialogue. ■

WhatsApp PDF Library

اس گروپ میں آپکو برقسم کی PDF کتاب فراہم کرنے کی کوشش کی جاتی ہے۔ تمام کتابیں مفت دی جاتی ہیں۔

I'm not responsible of copyrights .This pdf file is downloaded from internet .I never ever earn from this pdf

For joining whatsapp group msg on whatsapp no#03006184459 and for getting daily general mcqs like fb page

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
DAILY MCQS**



Sociological Background of Regionalism in South Asia

Dr Rajkumar Singh

The Indian subcontinent or South Asia encompasses eight very diverse sovereign states of very different sizes: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The subcontinent carries the weight not only of its people but also of their ancient history, stretching back five millennia, and a modern history encompassing the experience of British colonialism compressed in tumultuous developments within the past couple of centuries. It has 3 percent of the world's area, 23 percent of its population and 2 percent of its GDP. Within that, India has 72 percent of the area, 77 percent of the population and 75 percent of the GDP. Several regional organisations in different parts of the world had already come into existence before SAARC and were working fairly and satisfactorily. These included the Arab League established in 1945, Organisation of American States OAS 1948, the Association of South-East Asian Nations ASEAN 1967, and the European Union, EU, 1993. The last one is evolved from the six-nation European Coal and Steel Community created in 1952. It is now a 15-member union and is the most perfect and effective of all regional organisations.

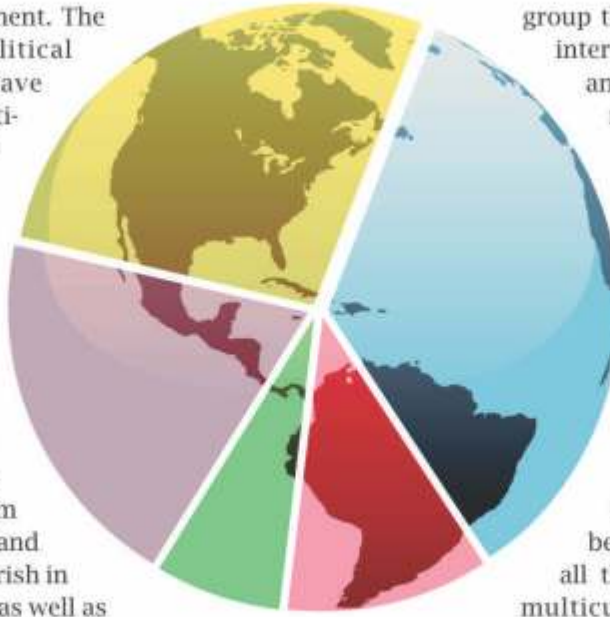
Points of difference in South Asia

The region South Asia and its peoples present a picture of diversity in unity, indeed of immense diversity within a very broad contour of unity. Among them there is great diversity in natural attributes—imposing hills and mountains, lush green river plains, arid deserts and brown plateaus. The South Asian societies are marked by their plural character in terms of languages, cultures, regions and religions. The peoples of South Asia speak at least twenty major languages and if we include the more important dialects, the count rises to over two hundred. The very diverse languages and language families of South Asia have made enormous contributions to world literature from ancient to modern times. In a broad historical and cultural sense all states of the region may be viewed to be belonging to the Indian family of nations. Others alike the region South Asia share certain things in common and they are the religious—cultural heritage of the ancient and medieval times and the administrative, political, educational, economic institutions. Adherents of major world religions, Hinduism, Islam, and Buddhism are found in the subcontinent. Hinduism with its ancient roots, modern transformation and multiple interpretations plays a vital part in the culture

and politics of the subcontinent. The greatest cultural and political achievements of Islam have taken place in the subcontinent, where more than 400 million of the world's 1.3 billion Muslims live today. Each of the three most populous countries of South Asia—India, Bangladesh and Pakistan has nearly 140 million Muslims, next only to Indonesia as the largest Muslim countries in the world. Buddhism, apart from the formal adherents in the land of its birth, continues to flourish in Sri Lanka and the Himalayas as well as in East and Southeast Asia. South Asia has also significant number of Jain, Zoroastrian, Christian and Sikh minorities.

Social groups and regional cooperation

In spheres of culture, economy, politics and society the modern South Asian history witnessed a number of significant changes in which pivotal role was played by the intermediate social groups in the construction and continuation of British raj. As a result of this social



group the colonial state succeeded in intervening the earlier communal and caste categories. They also refashioned the social relations of class by the linking of Indian economic regions to wider capitalist system and thus created a new group in subcontinent's society for their benefit. The states of South Asia emerged as sovereign entities after their prolonged struggle against colonialism. In the Post-Colonial era, nation building became an arduous task. It was all the minorities challenging for multicultural states to blend the

diverse religious, linguistic and ethno-cultural groups into a national mould. Majority of these states devised the mechanism of a secular democratic order to achieve this objective. But lack of popular participation or the inadequacy of participation have, rather, contributed to political fragmentation. The absence of a political mechanism to settle who will get what and how has given rise to conflicts among ethnic groups.



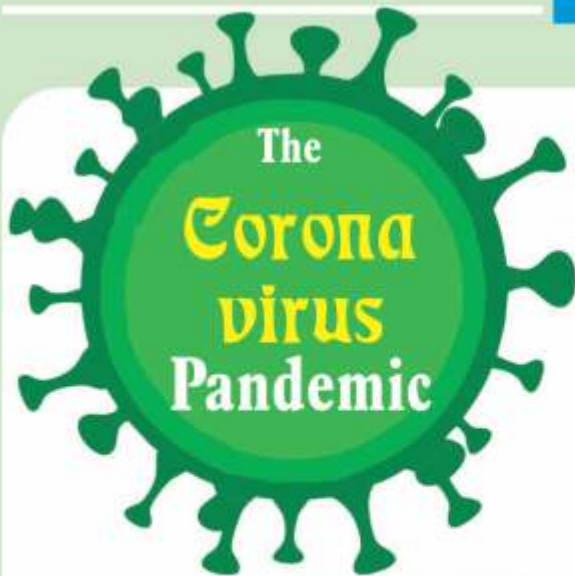
Congential environment in South Asia

The Charter of the United Nations as contained in Article 52, permits, "the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action", provided they are consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Though no any criteria was set regarding behaviour among the member countries, in general, any feasible plan promoting the birth of a regional cooperative organisation must satisfy two basic criteria: (a) it must conform to the interests of participating states and (b) it must respect the sovereignty of the member countries. In case of South Asia the earlier quest for autonomy against dominance proved fatal for region's integration and interdependence and it pre-

vented, on the other, the evolution and growth of regional economic cooperation. As demanded by the changed situation and pressing needs of the public at large, countries of the region felt the urgency to initiate and institutionalise economic cooperation in South Asia. For the first time an attempt was made to isolate economic cooperation issues stemming from the traditionally dominant factor of political antagonism. Thus, formation of the SAARC is premised on three assumptions. First, the promotion and satisfaction of economic goals through cooperative measures will establish the salience of economic issues in intra-regional relations. Second, the realisation of equitable distribution of benefits from the expansion of cooperation in areas of commercial and industrial activity will reduce the severity of hither to unresolved disputes to a manageable level. Lastly, dialogue through the SAARC forum and enhanced transactions will effect a positive change in the attitudes of leadership and help bring about consensus on peaceful means of resolution of conflict. ■



In Post-World War II phase several unsuccessful attempts were made by India and others to stimulate regional identity and consciousness in Asia and create a basis for cooperation among Asian countries. Initially, South Asia did not have powerful economic incentives to offer to the global forces of market exploitation and coordination. It lacked natural resources and primary products potential for quick, easy and wholesome profits to attract investments from the outside world. For long thirty years regionalism could neither be imposed from the global hegemonic forces on South Asia, nor could it be evolved through autonomous initiatives from within the region. In contrast, the regional politics of South Asia was encouraged to feed on conflict and poverty, but, in fact it presents a case of economic parity as Gunnar Myrdal had put it in 1968", There is a similarity in the basic economic conditions of the South Asian countries. All are very poor in general, the largest are the poorest..... All have endured a long period of stagnation..... and the levels of living of the masses are either lower or not substantially higher today than they were before the Second World War."



Outbreaks of disease can spread rapidly and kill thousands - but what is the difference between a pandemic, an endemic and an epidemic? Here we explain the difference between the terms and what they mean.

epi (among) + demos = epidemic

en (in) + demos = endemic

pan (all) + demos = pandemic

All you need to know about the 'demics'

With coronavirus cases on a rapid rise, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially changed their classification of COVID-19, the mysterious viral pneumonia-like disease caused by the novel coronavirus, from a public health emergency of international concern to a pandemic. While making the declaration, the organisation's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, "WHO has been assessing this outbreak around the clock, and we're deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity and by the alarming levels of inaction."

What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease COVID-19.

What is a pandemic?

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines a pandemic as "an outbreak of a new pathogen that spreads easily from person to person across the globe."

According to A Dictionary of Epidemiology, the standard reference for epidemiologists, a pandemic is "an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people."

Simply put, a pandemic is the worldwide spread of a new infectious disease. When a new disease spreads over a vast geographical area covering several countries and continents, and most people do not have immunity against it, the outbreak is termed a pandemic. The word is from the Greek 'pan' meaning 'all' and 'demos' meaning 'people'. It stretches over a larger area, infects more people and causes more deaths than an epidemic. But the term refers to the spread of disease, not its potency or deadliness. There is no fixed number of cases or deaths that determine when an outbreak becomes a pandemic. It, however, implies a higher level of concern than an epidemic.

What is an endemic?

The term endemic refers to the constant presence and/or usual prevalence of a disease or infectious agent in a population within a geographic area. It is an outbreak that occurs at a predictable rate in a certain area or among a set population. Chickenpox is classed as an endemic as it occurs at a high but predictable rate among youngsters. Endemics remain at a steady state, but do not disappear from a population. Hyperendemic refers to the persistent, higher levels of disease prevalence in a particular place.

What is an epidemic?

An epidemic will see a disease rapidly spread among a large number of people in a given population. During an epidemic the disease will normally spread in two weeks or less. Epidemics may be the consequence of disasters of another kind, such as tropical storms, floods, earthquakes and droughts. There have been 14 epidemics since 2010, including the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, which killed 11,300 people between 2013 and 2016. In 2003, the Sars outbreak was classed as an epidemic - it killed nearly 800 people.

10 worst pandemics in human history

1. HIV/AIDS pandemic (at its peak, 2001-12)

Cause: HIV/AIDS

Death toll: 36 million

Currently there are between 31 and 35 million people living with HIV, the vast majority of those are in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 5% of the population is infected, roughly 21 million people. Between 2005 and 2012 the annual global deaths from

HIV/AIDS dropped from 2.2 million to 1.6 million.

2. Flu pandemic (1968)

Cause: Influenza

Death toll: 1 million

From the first reported case on July 13, 1968 in Hong Kong, it took only 17 days before outbreaks of the virus were reported in Singapore and Vietnam, and within three months had spread to The Philippines, India, Australia, Europe, and the United States.

3. Asian flu (1956-58)

Cause: Influenza

Death toll: 2 million

Asian flu was a pandemic outbreak of Influenza A of the H2N2 sub type that originated in China in 1956 and lasted until 1958. In its two-year spree, Asian flu traveled from the Chinese province of Guizhou to Singapore, Hong Kong, and the United States.

4. Flu pandemic (1918)

Cause: Influenza

Death toll: 20-50 million

Between 1918 and 1920 a disturbingly deadly outbreak of influenza tore across the globe, infecting over a third of the world's population and ending the lives of 20 - 50 million people.

What separated the 1918 flu pandemic from other influenza outbreaks was the victims; where influenza had always previously only killed juveniles and the elderly or already weakened patients, it had begun striking down hardy and completely healthy young adults, while leaving children and those with weaker immune systems still alive.

5. Sixth Cholera pandemic (1910-1911)

Cause: Cholera

Death toll: 800,000+

Like its five previous incarnations, the Sixth Cholera Pandemic originated in India where it killed over 800,000, before spreading to the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Russia.

6. Flu pandemic (1889-1900)

Cause: Influenza

Death toll: 1 million

Originally the "Asiatic Flu" or "Russian Flu", its first cases were observed in May 1889 in three separate and distant locations, Bukhara in Central Asia (Turkestan), Athabasca in northwestern Canada, and Greenland.

7. Third Cholera pandemic (1852-1860)

Cause: Cholera

Death toll: 1 million

Generally considered the most deadly of the seven cholera pandemics, the third major outbreak of Cholera in the 19th century lasted from 1852 to 1860. Like the first and second pandemics, the Third

Cholera Pandemic originated in India, spreading from the Ganges River Delta before tearing through Asia, Europe, North America and Africa and ending the lives of over a million people.

8. The Black Death (1346-1353)

Cause: Bubonic plague

Death toll: 75-200 million

From 1346 to 1353 an outbreak of the Plague ravaged Europe, Africa, and Asia, with an estimated death toll between 75 and 200 million people. Originated in Asia, the plague most likely jumped continents via the fleas living on the rats that so frequently lived aboard merchant ships.

9. Plague of Justinian (541-542)

Cause: Bubonic Plague

Death toll: 25 million

Thought to have killed perhaps half the population of Europe, the Plague of Justinian was an outbreak of the bubonic plague that afflicted the Byzantine Empire and Mediterranean port cities, killing up to 25 million people in its year long reign of terror.

10. Antonine Plague (165 AD)

Cause: Unknown

Death toll: 5 million

Also known as the Plague of Galen, the Antonine Plague was an ancient pandemic that affected Asia Minor, Egypt, Greece, and Italy and is thought to have been either Smallpox or Measles, though the true cause is still unknown. 📌

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EPIDEMIC AND PANDEMIC



EPIDEMIC

- An epidemic is an outbreak of disease that affects many in a population and begins to spread rapidly.
- An outbreak of disease is considered an epidemic if it affects a certain number of people within a short period of time, typically within 2 weeks.



PANDEMIC

- Pandemic is a larger epidemic. A pandemic covers several countries or spreads from one continent to another.
- In pandemic outbreaks, the number of people affected or killed doesn't matter as much as the rate of spread and how far it has spread.

Laiba Muhammad Aamir

Being born into this world is not something we have chosen for our self. The body given to our lingering soul was completely out of our control. We were thrown into this world without our will and wish. We could be born as an insect, bird, animal or flower. Martin

Heidegger, a German philosopher, says that being thrown into this world is like existing in conditions beyond our control. We are thrown into existence with full of those circumstances which we cannot determine but they affect the way we live and experience. On the other side, Jean-Paul Sartre, a French writer and existentialist philosopher, says, "Man is condemned to be free; because once thrown into the world, he is responsible for everything he does." He asserts that the circumstances of our birth and upbringing are uncontrollable, but once we develop the ability of self-consciousness, we must make choices even by taking risks, and those choices actually define our very essence. Here, the key to success is "self-awareness." People come into this world and make plans for a brighter future, but hang in between what to choose and what not. Most of the times, we procrastinate because we lack courage to take a step forward and make it happen. Time is passing quickly and we are getting older. It will hurt when we will think of the things we wanted to do but couldn't, anyway. Life is full of opportunities and favours. The way to avail them is to work according to certain rules which are cardinal in their status.

1. Embrace your past

Scratches from the past bring so many memories back,

making us both to kiss hands of our old self or slap tightly on its face and ask, "Were you even real?" In case of the latter, there are always some situations in almost everyone's past that they are not proud of. They want to shut that door for good like the past had never happened. They keep their past as a dark secret in the closet of heart

and avoid reflecting on it. In doing all this, they become the victim of controlling past times. They never make peace with their old self which is the actual producer of their new version. This strength, wisdom, courage, and changing perspectives at present are nothing but the result of our past. The edifice of our present stands on the pillars of our past, but then why not embrace this pillar and be thankful to it. For some people, their past appears like a nightmare which disturbs their present as well.

Do not be ashamed of your past and

all those mistakes and failures. Give it the credit for your success because it has given you life-time lessons that no book and no person could have taught you. Also, a lesson learnt from a failure lasts long than the one from victory. Past is what defines us and our ways of life. It makes us realize what is important to, and for, us. It teaches us that no matter how hard were the days back then, time heals everything. It shows us what to keep and what to let go. Consider it a fact that past is the best teacher. Make peace with it!

2. Self-love is not selfish

Unfortunately, since day one, we are taught how to keep others happy, even if that happens at the cost of our needs and desires. Pushing ourselves to a peripheral position and letting others take the centre of our life is even

"We cannot withdraw our cards from the game. Were we as silent and mute as stones, our very passivity would be an act."

Jean-Paul Sartre

Cardinal Rules of Life

To be is to be!



considered a social virtue. We are expected to love others more than our own poor self. This stereotype needs to be broken because it is becoming the reason of many evils such as depression and anxiety. Accept it or not, self-love needs to be made the part of education at the very basic level. Others matter, but you matter first. Self-love is not selfish, but it makes one realize how to live with others by not sacrificing one's own basic needs. Self-love motivates one to achieve one's targets without even feeling the need to take help from the outside sources. It is usually thought that self-love is actually being obsessed with one's self. No, rather, self-love is the way to respect one's self and become aware of the fact that others deserve the same. A person who loves himself can never think of doing harm



to others because he knows what is right and what is wrong. People look for inspiration in the outside world, but they fail to understand that everything is inside our soul. Once you fell in love with yourself, you will never feel alone in a dark room, and also not lost in the crowd. People who love and believe in themselves never fall for false hope and support because their own inner strength is enough for them. Treat yourself kindly so you won't expect from others. How can someone give you something which you cannot give to your own self?

3. Identify and exclude toxic people

There are always some people who have a problem with every solution. They are those who make us feel unwanted. They make us feel low because they know that negative words affect mind more quickly than positive ones. They are expert in judging even our minor acts and when they feel that they cannot change us, they start changing the perspectives of other people about us. They make a scale for us to measure our goodness and badness. They never appreciate our achievements; instead, they remind us of our past failures and that too, sometimes, in front of others so as to make us feel embarrassed. Their favourite hobby is to make chaos around our lives. They

cannot see us go beyond those limits which they themselves are not capable to cross. They are those who follow in our footsteps, but are afraid to accept it. What we can do in such situation is to just stay away from them because hoping to change these toxic people is fruitless as they do not see any issue in their actions. Therefore, make your inner voice louder than their useless gossips. However, there are certain people who we cannot completely cut off from our life such as member of our family, friends or colleagues. In such a case, we must immediately feel the negative vibes coming from them, and draw boundaries as soon as possible. Giving opportunities to toxic people again and again is doing harm to oneself. You need to accept that spending time with toxic people is like letting their toxins enter your body to make it as wasteful as theirs.

In conclusion, live your life as a gift, and not as a burden of expectations from others. Live every moment as if it were the last moment of your life. Live it to the fullest. Once you lose yourself, you never find again what you were once,

but what you have become after what you have experienced. Past moments were a gift from the universe to teach you so many incredible things. Irrespective of what you have been put into, you have gone through it, and now you are no more



a victim but a survivor. Fall in love with yourself because you deserve it more than anything. Time will come when people will remind you of what you were. They will never want you to grow. They will dig deep pits for you to fall but do not argue with them. Let them do what they love to do. You are born to surpass them. So, identify the right path and go on it even if you are all alone and the path is thorny. Being born into this world was not our choice, but once born, it is now our responsibility to live it as a life and not as a burden or guilt. 📌

BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by: Saba Sibghat

'We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is then not an act but a habit'. — Aristotle

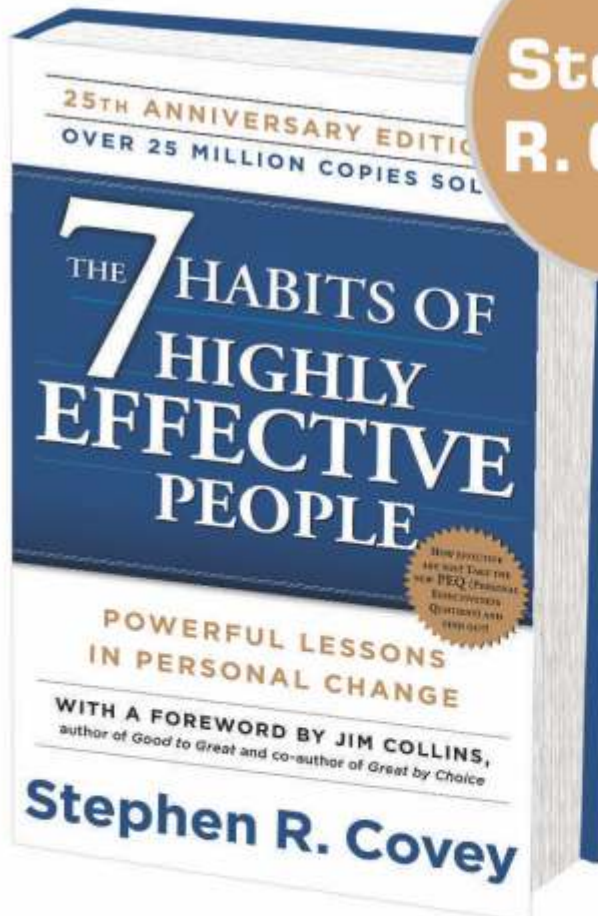
In 1989, Stephen R. Covey, a noted American educator, author, businessman and keynote speaker, introduced a new genre in literature: personal development. This book sold like hotcakes and became an international bestseller in no time.

All the successful and the richest people of the world have read it for sure. And it is a key to success for all the students as well. These are not the 7 habits but the seven pearls of wisdom. This book is a hallmark in personal and professional success. Covey is of the opinion that in order to be outwardly successful you have to first carry the day from within so he titles the first three habits as those of 'Private Victory'.

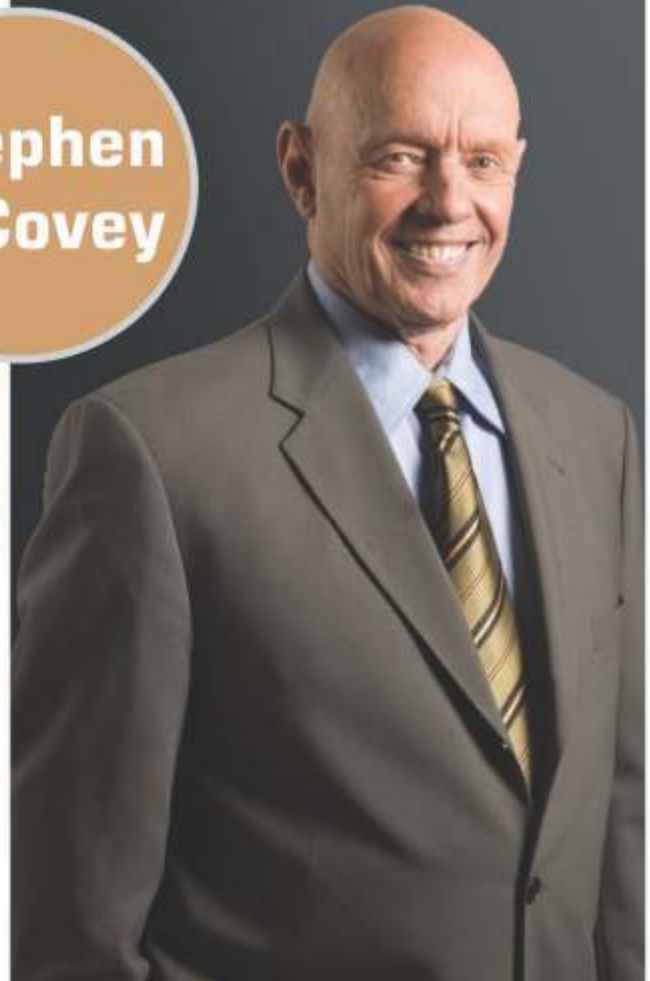
"Our character, basically, is a composite of our habits ... Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny..."

1. Proactive

**What it takes
to be
Effective – and
Successful**



**Stephen
R. Covey**



This is the first habit of the most effective people, which says that we need to be proactive, instead of being reactive. By taking the charge of our own life, we should take the responsibility, instead of playing the blame game. We should take the initiative because we are the programmers and the co-creators of our own life; we write a program and then execute that. But most people live their life according to their emotions, moods, feelings and how others treat them. They are always reacting to what other people think and say about them. These are the reactive people. In order to be proactive, you should not wait around other things to happen; you should, instead, be in control of your own self. When you think that the problem is outside of you—whether it's your boss, your spouse or some situation—you observe yourself in that problem and that thought is the problem, in fact. Your life is a product of your principles and values, and not your emotions. Your life is a product of your decisions, and not your circumstances.

"Reactive people are often affected by their physical environment. If the weather is good, they feel good. If it isn't, it affects their attitude and their performance. Proactive people can carry their own weather with them." (Page 79)

"Reactive people build their emotional lives around the behavior of others, empowering the weaknesses of other people to control them ... Proactive people are driven by values—carefully thought about, selected and internalized values." (P-79)

2. Begin with the end in mind

"To Begin with the End in Mind means to start with a clear understanding of your destination."(P-105)

It's an act of visualization, basically.

We need to have a clear vision of the task before starting it. We need to have a plan about it or else we will lose interest in the task. We need to have a right roadmap to see whether we are on the right path, and where we want to end. Make sure that you are working towards your particular goal. For example, if you start a jigsaw puzzle and you have the end in mind, it will be a lot easier for you to solve the puzzle. Everything is created twice, first in the mind of the person, then in reality, e.g. painting. You first make a building on paper, and then you build it or else it would cost you a lot of money.

3. Putting first thing first

"Things that matter most must never be at the mercy of things that matter least" — Goethe

It is important to categorize your priorities in order of

their importance. Covey categorizes the tasks on the basis of 'importance' and 'urgency'. Most people spend most of their time in putting out fire by focusing on the things which are in highest urgency quadrant. As for the long time effectivity, you should spend as much time in quadrant number 2—these are the tasks that are low in urgency but high on importance. It means you're working on the things which you really and truly value. These are the things that give you a sense of fulfilment. It is a paradigm shift; the way we look at the time management. In his book, the symbol of time management is not a clock, but a compass which symbolizes purpose. Your inner compass is your vision for your life.

"You're the creator. You are in charge." (P-155)

"We all have some Quadrant I activities in our lives. But Quadrant I consumes many people. They are crisis managers, problem-minded people, the deadline-driven producers. As long as you focus on Quadrant I, it keeps getting bigger and bigger until it dominates you." (P-160)

"There are other people who spend a great deal of time in urgent but not important." (P-161)

Quadrant 4 activities are trivia, busy work, some mail, some phone calls, and time-waster, pleasant activities.

"People who spend time almost exclusively in Quadrants III and IV basically lead irresponsible lives." (P-162)

Quadrant 2 is the heart of effective management. These are the things that are not urgent but are important.

4. Think win/win

Now starts the public victory that is mutually beneficial and mutually satisfying solution.

This is a situation we can imply in personal as well as professional relationships. We should always look for the mutual interest. There are people who think win/lose. Then, there are people who think lose/lose and they are the complete losers. And, then there are complete winners who think win/win.

One person's success should not be at the expense or exclusion of other person.

"Win-win is a belief in the Third Alternative. It's not your way or my way; it's a better way, a higher way." (P-218)

Take the example of marriage.

"Who's winning in your marriage?" is a ridiculous question. If both people aren't winning, both are losing."

5. Seek first to understand then to be understood

It's like stepping into someone else's shoes.

There are four dimensions of communication: reading, writing, talking and listening. How much time do we really spend listening? Covey wants us to practice empathetic listening. We need to be more empathetic in listening instead only being sympathetic.

Listening carefully before speaking is the best way of understanding and learning.

"When we really, deeply understand each other, we open the door to creative solutions..." (P-271)

Empathetic listening can create the bridge of communication by chasing away the gulf of misunderstanding. It also chases away the stumbling blocks in communication and turns them into stepping stones to synergy.

6. Synergy

Synergy means combination of different energies. It makes a bridge of association, communication and collaboration with different kinds of people. It's not only to tolerate difference of opinion, but also to celebrate that and to make use of the differences for a larger interest. Interdependency is a decision which only independent people can make. It means that your success is tied with other people's success, and that you work together. Working together can achieve a lot more than you do independently. Covey calls it 'Creative Corporation'.

"...effective interdependence can only be built on a foundation of true independence." (P-195)

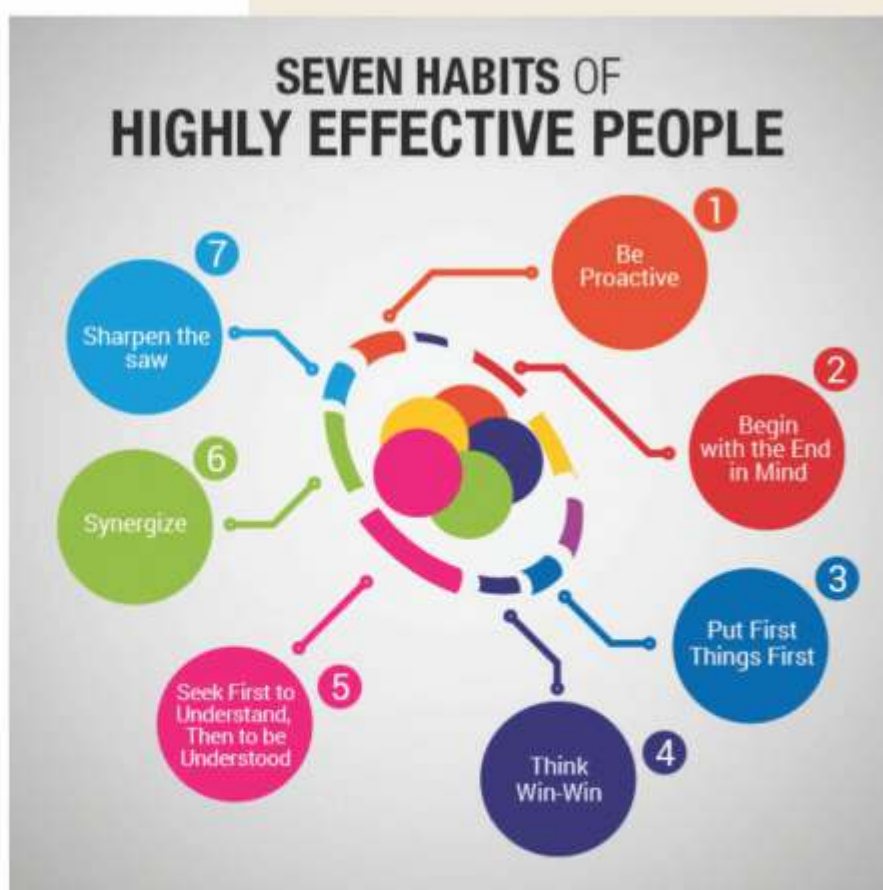
7. Sharpening the saw

You need to sharpen your saw in all the four dimensions of your life; physical, mental, social and emotional and spiritual, regularly, consistently in a wise and balanced way. Sharpening the saw can save half your time. For instance, you see a guy cutting a tree with the rough saw and you say, "Hey, why don't you sharpen the thing? It's going to take you 6 hours at this rate." He says, "I don't have time to sharpen the thing." You say, "If you spend one hour in sharpening the saw, it will take you only 3 hours to cut this tree. So

sharpening the Saw can save half of your time."

This can aptly be applied to our life when we say we don't have time to exercise, we don't have time to invest in our family, do you know why do we say that? We say that because these are the things that are not urgent but, in fact, are the most important in our life. For instance, if you don't exercise today, you will have to pay its price 30 years later in the form of different ailments. So, sharpening your mental saw by continuing to learn, reading books, educating yourself and teaching others, making some emotional investment in your family by spending quality time with your love ones, and by taking care of your body through exercise and taking of your soul with meditation, prayers, music, introspection and study is an investment that will make your body, mind, and people and soul an asset for you, for tomorrow.

Covey laid down the foundation of what it takes to be a great leader and the book offers groundbreaking insight into how to begin developing as a person and as a leader. Covey passed away in 2012 but his work continued to live on, proving true the maxim "No person lasts forever but books and ideas can endure."



From Third World to the First

Lessons from Lee Kuan Yew's Autobiography

Singapore, a city-state, has recently reached that level of development that to term it as the most futuristic city of the world won't be an exaggeration. The Marina Bay Sands, The Hive at NTU, those super trees at Gardens by the Bay and many other marvels cast a spell on the visitors; such is the physical, infrastructural development of the country. But there is more than only ostentatious engineering models; their human development is as impressive as their physical one. It is the most competitive country in the world; one of the best ranking in Ease of Doing Business, an amazing GDP growth rate – it remains an entrepot, one of the centers of world finance and cosmopolitanism.

Reviewed by: Osama Rizvi

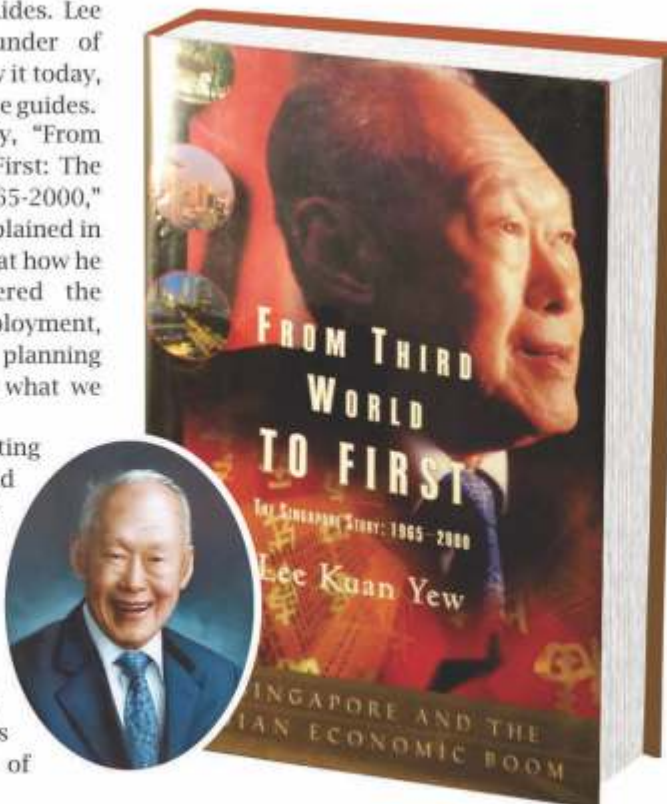
But it wasn't always the case. In 1965, at the time of Singapore's independence, the annual per capita income there was less than \$1,000 which now stands at more than \$54,000. This shows a journey, from an abyss to a summit.

And the country had its guides. Lee Kuan Yew, the founder of Singapore as we know it today, was the leader of those guides. In his autobiography, "From Third World to the First: The Singapore Story: 1965-2000," Lee Kuan Yew has explained in an interesting flair that how he and his team steered the country from unemployment, poverty and poor planning towards this marvel what we see today.

From the issue of setting in their own army and defence forces once Britain decided to leave the country (they did so in 1968, gradually) to forming a Central Provident Fund (CPF, hereinafter) that has been the backbone of

various government initiatives, Lee explains in vivid detail his diplomatic overtures, his continuous visits and incessant discussions with diplomats from US to China and from Middle East to India.

To lead a country of only 640 sq. km, with no natural resources surrounding, at that time, with communists and adversaries, wasn't an easy task. Throughout the book, the reader will see Lee's focus and attention on learning and trying new things – that is to say constant innovation to bring about positive change. He thought that it is only by making the common-man of his country a stakeholder in its progress that will incentivize him to work hard and be a truly responsible citizen. He did this by forming strong, independent and exceptionally efficient governmental institutions, e.g. BECD (Bases Economic Conversion Department), HBD (Housing Board Department) and EDB (Economic Development Board). Young Singaporeans, local and foreign graduates used their



BOOK REVIEW



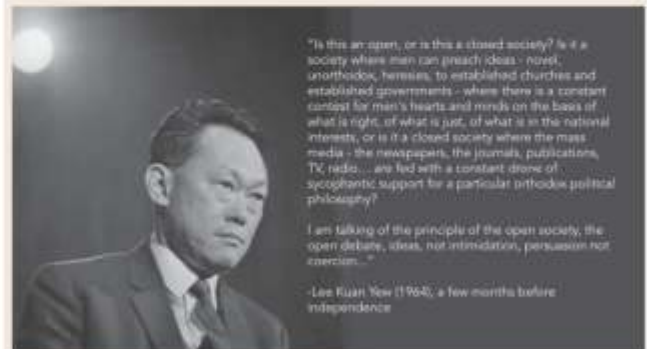
skills by putting in countless hours to persuade MNCs (Multinational Corporations) to invest in Singapore - Lee says that his team had to point out to the investors where Singapore exactly was while talking to them! One of the most significant lessons to be learned from Lee's autobiography is to cherish and strive for young talent not only in private industries but in the government bodies as well. As he explains, and the similarity was striking, many veterans and "old guards" are against young people as they think that a dearth of



experience, of all that road shows, that politicking, sloganeering and others tactics of such ilk, don't make them a qualified candidate for such important governmental positions.

Lee's opinion was totally opposite to the aforesaid approach. He was so fond of recruiting young talent for government positions that he started a proper recruitment drive, something that governments rarely do for senior positions. So much so that he contacted the corporate leaders of various MNCs to inquire about how they hire people. Their system (that of Shell, the giant oil company) is instructive to mention here - that Lee also considered the best and later on employed in government hiring. The company focused on what they

called a person's CEP, Currently Estimated Potential. To determine this potential, they assessed the candidate on three qualities: 1) Power of Analysis; 2) Power of Imagination; and 3) Sense of Reality. All these three made what the company called "Helicopter Quality" - building on a person's ability to see the bigger picture all the while zooming in on various and important details. Later on, the same approach was inculcated in selection for Singaporean public service (in 1983), replacing the



system that British had installed (that still runs in our country).

These were but only a few insights that his cogent autobiography holds inside. Reading the book will introduce one to the secrets of backdoor diplomacy; how world leaders talk, behave and conduct at national and international level. How various bodies work for particular changes in the global order and how a person, prime minister of a small island, gave his life to endeavour for the country and make it a First World oasis in the midst of a Third World desert.

There is much to learn from it for everyone; a student, a politician, a diplomat or a visionary leader trying to steer one's country towards success.

Happy Reading! 📖



اس گروپ میں آپکو ہر قسم کی PDF کتاب فراہم کرنے کی کوشش کی جاتی ہے۔ تمام کتابیں مفت دی جاتی ہیں۔

I'm not responsible of copyrights. This pdf file is downloaded from internet. I never ever earn from this pdf

For joining whatsapp group msg on whatsapp no#03006184459 and for getting daily general mcqs like fb page

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
DAILY MCQS**



EXAM PACK



WORLD IN FOCUS

M. Usman Butt

NATIONAL

Feb 16: A toxic gas leak killed five people and sickened dozens of others in a coastal residential area in Pakistan's port city of Karachi.

Feb 16: Pakistan's Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi and Britain's Dominic Inglot won their first ATP Tour doubles titles at the New York Open 2020 with a victory over USA duos Steve Johnson and Reilly Opelka.

Feb 16: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called upon India to ensure that the people of the Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir enjoyed the same fundamental rights and freedom of movement as being enjoyed by the people of Azad Kashmir. The UN chief offered his role as a mediator and said his good offices could be used for this purpose.

Feb 16: A special n sustainable development and climate change was held in Islamabad. Speaking on the occasion, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned the world is losing the battle to control carbon emissions, adding that people should



invest in green energy because of the high dividends.

Feb 16: Nadir Magsi and Tushna Patel, the defending champions, maintained their supremacy in their respective categories in the 15th Cholistan Jeep Rally in the annual event held at the Derawar Fort, Bahawalpur. At this year's event, the Dirt Bike Rally was introduced for the first time as part of the main event.

Feb 16: Pakistan won their first Kabaddi world cup after they defeated India— six time winner—in the final of the World Circle-Style Kabaddi Cup 2020 which was played at the Punjab Stadium in Lahore.

Feb 17: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF)—a Pairs-based global antimoney laundering

watchdog—met to review the progress made by Pakistan towards implementation of its 27-point action plan.

Feb 17: After a period of 40 years, the Punjab Agriculture Department revised the method of analysing the cultivation and production of over 148 various types of crops and also introduced a modern

Area Frame Sampling system based on the latest technology. **Feb 17:** 'International Conference on 40 Years of Hosting Afghan Refugees in Pakistan: A New Partnership for Solidarity' opened in Islamabad with representatives of nearly 20 countries in attendance.

Feb 17: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Normalisation Committee, in an unprecedented move, appointed a female general secretary Manizah Zainli with immediate effect.

Feb 18: Pakistan carried out a successful test of the nuclear-capable Air-Launched Cruise Missile Raad-II.

About Raad 2

The 4.85 meter-long cruise missile Raad-II has a range of 550-600 kilometers. It is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear payloads. It is equipped with



state-of-the-art guidance and navigation systems ensuring engagement of targets with high precision. The new longer-range Ra'ad II "significantly enhances air delivered strategic standoff capability on land and at sea.

Feb 19: United Nations (UN) Secretary General António Guterres visited the Kartarpur Corridor.

Feb 19: A delegation of British parliamentarians from the All-Party Parliamentary Kashmir Group called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at his office.

Feb 19: Senior journalist Fasih-ur-Rehman Khan passed away.

Feb 20: Attorney General Anwar Mansoor Khan resigned from his office.

Feb 20: Former IGP Sindh, Allah Dino Khawaja, commonly known as AD Khawaja, was posted as secretary of the Narcotics Control Division (NCD). He was currently serving as the Inspector General of

National Highways and Motorways Police.

Feb 20: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Kuwait. During this visit, Pakistan and Kuwait agreed to increase bilateral cooperation in multiple fields of defence and security, including export of defence products, training, provision of trained manpower / human resource and cooperation in counterterrorism domain.

Feb 20: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) approved the Uber and Careem merger, imposing pro-competitive and tough conditions ensuring a level-playing field for new entrants and competitors in the app-based ridesharing market.

Feb 20: Ahmad Ali Rajput was elected as president while Pervaiz Ahmed was elected unopposed as the secretary general for the next four-year term in the elections of the Pakistan Gymnastics Federation (PGF).

Feb 20: The fifth edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) kicked off with a colourful opening ceremony at National Stadium Karachi.

Feb 20: Pakistani batsman Umar Akmal was suspended indefinitely under the PCB Anti-Corruption Code.

Feb 20: While chairing a federal cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Imran Khan directed a freeze on the gas and electricity tariffs and called for the best possible options to reduce the burden of various surcharges in gas and electricity bills.

Feb 20: Former Pakistan boxing hero, and former South Asian and Asian Championship gold medalist Olympian Usmanullah Khan passed away.

Feb 20: The 9th Defence and Security Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) concluded in Islamabad. The event "first of its kind was part of SCO Defence and Security Cooperation Plan - 2020", attended by delegates from eight countries including seven permanent members and one observer state of the SCO.

Feb 20: The 2019 Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) was released. It has been compiled and launched by the Idara-i-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA), a public trust striving to promote education in Pakistan.

Feb 21: Comrade Dr Yasrab Tanvir Gondal, better known as Lal Khan for his Marxist views, breathed his last. He was 64.

Feb 21: The Financial Action Task Force decided not to blacklist Pakistan and give it more time to complete the 27-point action plan it has committed to.

Feb 21: Prime Minister Imran Khan led the grand opening of the newly constructed facility at Recep Tayyip Erdogan Hospital Trust, raising the hospital's total capacity to 400 beds. The hospital, located some 380 kilometres from the provincial capital, was given as a gift from Turkey to Pakistan in 2014.

Feb 21: Operation Raddul Fasad (RuD), which was



launched across the board in February 2017, completed its three years.

Feb 21: On the call of Pakistan Ulema Council, Polio Awareness Day was observed in Pakistan.

Feb 22: President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi announced honorary citizenship and the highest civilian award for Peshawar Zalmi's skipper Darren Sammy in recognition of his services for the revival of international cricket in the country.

Feb 22: The Balochistan government imposed emergency in all bordering districts with Iran with immediate effect after the neighbouring country reported deaths caused by the new coronavirus.

Feb 22: The Ministry of Law and Justice notified Khalid Jawed Khan as the new Attorney General (AG) for Pakistan with the rank and status of federal minister with immediate effect.

Feb 23: The five-day cultural festival in Sibi concluded.

Feb 23: Prime Minister Imran Khan inaugurated the tree plantation campaign at the Kundian forest in Mianwali district.

Feb 23: In view of deaths caused by novel coronavirus in Iran, Pakistan temporarily closed its border with the neighbouring country.

Feb 23: The concluding ceremony of the fifth Pakistan Mother Languages Literature Festival was held in Islamabad.

Feb 23: Chief of the Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Morocco where he held meetings with Morocco's Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in Charge of the Administration of National Defence Abdellatif Loudiyi, and Inspector General of Royal Armed Forces Gen Abdelfattah Lourak in Morocco. During these meetings, Pakistan and Morocco agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in different fields, including security cooperation, joint training and in counterterrorism domain.

Feb 23: Bay horse Piyara Sayeen displayed scintillating performance to lift the Sunshine Cup in the winter

Gymkhana race meeting.

Feb 24: The Institute of Public Health (IPH) and Virtual University of Pakistan (VUP) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote preventive healthcare.

Feb 24: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the support of the Government of Japan launched the "Strengthening tsunami and earthquake preparedness in the coastal areas of Pakistan", project in Karachi

About the Project

The overall objective of the project is to provide policy and operational support, at both the national and sub-national levels, through evidence-based research and analysis. The project also aims to enhance the resilience of coastal communities to coastal hazards in Sindh and Balochistan and expand their livelihood opportunities. It will especially be focused on some of the most vulnerable coastal communities of Karachi West, Malir and District Gwadar. The project is being implemented with the coordination and technical support of NDMA, Sindh and Balochistan PDMA, through Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), NED University of Engineering and Technology and Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

Feb 24: Farrukh Khan assumed the charge of his office as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

Feb 25: Pakistan paid an amount of \$93.5 million (Rs1,442 billion) to Russia in order to settle a 40-year-old trade dispute that issue was a major hurdle in boosting the former's trade ties with the latter.

Feb 25: Two senior officers of Pakistan Navy, Commander Coast Rear Admiral Faisal Rasul Lodhi and Commander Karachi Rear Admiral Zahid Ilyas were promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral with immediate effect.

Feb 25: A European Union delegation led by Her Excellency Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of





European Union met Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa. According to the ISPR press release, matters of mutual interest, regional security including Afghan reconciliation process, situation at LoC and IOJ&K were discussed. Ambassadors of different countries including Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Deputy Head of Missions of France & Hungary, Charge of Affaires of Greece, Attaché (Pol Affaires) of Austria and Senior Technical Advisor MOFA of Denmark were also part of delegation. Visiting dignitaries appreciated Pakistan's role for peace and stability in the region.

Feb 25: The government decided not to extend the bail of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and declared him an "absconder" for violating the bail requirements by not presenting his medical report before a board formed on the order of the Islamabad High Court.

Feb 25: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) ordered the release on bail of former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and former interior minister Ahsan Iqbal in LNG Terminal and Narowal sports city project cases, respectively.

Feb 25: Former mayor of Karachi and a senior leader of the Jamaat-i-Islami Niamatullah Khan Advocate passed away. He was 89.

Feb 25: Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM) chief Manzoor Pashteen was released from the central prison of Dera Ismail Khan after he was granted bail in the cases of sedition and other anti-state offences.

Feb 25: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet approved absorption of 9,619 special police personnel into regular police force that would cost the government Rs2.76 billion per annum.

Feb 25: Punjab Minister for Higher Education Raja Yasir Humayun Sarfraz announced scholarships for top performing students in sports.

Feb 25: Iftikhar Durrani officially resigned as Special Assistant to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Media Affairs.

Feb 26: The Committee of International Arbitration Tribunal issued a stay order on the request of Pakistan in the Reko Diq case. The International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) had announced a massive \$5.976 billion award against Pakistan in July 2019, which is one of biggest in ICSID history. ICSID awarded a \$4.08 billion penalty and \$1.87 billion in interest.

Feb 26: US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross met Energy Minister Omar Ayub Khan and Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Petroleum Nadeem Babar and discussed ways and means to foster bilateral trade links.

Feb 26: Former chief justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani received the prestigious Clifford Wallace Award which

was conferred on him in recognition of his extraordinary career as a judge and a jurist by the J. Reuben Clark Law Society.

Feb 26: Pakistan confirmed the first two cases of the novel coronavirus.

Feb 26: Noted Pashto folk artist Suriyya Khanum alias Mahjabeen Qazalbash breathed her last.

Feb 26: Advocate General of Punjab Ahmad Jamal Sukhera resigned from the office.

Feb 27: The government constituted the Cabinet Committee on Census under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Ali Zaidi and gave it the mandate to come up with a solution in consultation with all parties concerned on the findings of the last population census.

Feb 27: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced that it had reached a staff-level agreement with Pakistan authorities "on policies and reforms needed to complete the second review" of the \$6bn Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

Feb 27: A day after official confirmation of two cases



of novel coronavirus in the country, Pakistan suspended flight operation to, and from, Iran.

Feb 28: An around four-year-old ban on issuance of no-objection certificates (NOCs) for any kind of construction and development activities in Gwadar was lifted with immediate effect.

Feb 28: The federal government accepted the Sindh government's demand and appointed Mushtaq Mahar as new police chief in the province.

Feb 28: The financing agreement on 'Public Financial Management Support Programme-II' between Pakistan and the European Union was signed whereby the latter will provide a grant of €13 million for improving public sector financial management in the federal and provincial governments of Sindh and Balochistan.

Feb 28: President Arif Alvi approved the appointment of Lahore High Court's (LHC) senior-most judge Qasim Khan, as its chief justice, making him the 50th chief justice of the superior court of the province.

Feb 29: With the induction of Tania Airdus as special assistant to the prime minister on Digital Pakistan, the

ministers, four ministers of state, five advisers and 13 special assistants.

Feb 29: Jabir Ali clinched the U-18 singles title in the Lt Gen Farrukh Khan Memorial Punjab Junior Tennis Championship 2020.

Feb 29: The World Bank announced to provide \$36 million to Balochistan to help improve the quality of health and education services in four of its districts. The financial assistance consists of a credit of \$21m and a grant of \$15m.

Mar 01: Prime Minister Imran Khan launched the multibillion rupee Blue Area commercial project under which the land would be auctioned off and the revenue spent on rehabilitation of Islamabad and construction of low-cost housing units.

Mar 01: International Labour Organisation (ILO) published a study titled 'Female Labour Migration from Pakistan' in which it has been reported that that there is very little information about economic



opportunities available to women overseas and the job search duration for women in Pakistan is greater than it is for men.

Mar 01: In a match against South Africa, Javeria Khan became only the fourth Pakistan woman cricketer to register a century of T20I matches.

Mar 01: Federal Minister for National History and Literary Heritage Division Shafqat Mehmood appointed a new board of governors (BoG) for Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

Mar 01: Top seed Mohammad Shoaib beat Turkey's Ayar Goklap to win the Boys' Singles title of the Syed Dilawar Abbas Memorial ITF Pakistan Junior Tennis Championships.

Mar 02: Four months after its soft launch, the Ehsaas undergraduate scholarship programme was formally launched by Prime

Minister Imran Khan.

Mar 02: The Baloch Culture Day was celebrated across Balochistan with zeal and fervour.

Mar 02: A Saudi delegation led by Deputy Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz called on Army Chief Gen Qamar Bajwa at the GHQ and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Mar 03: Pakistan Navy's exercise the SEASPARK concluded in North Arabian Sea. The live weapon firing of anti-ship missiles from various fleet combat platforms including surface, sub-surface platform and aviation units of Pakistan Navy was the hallmark of the exercise.

Mar 03: The government wrote a letter to the UK authorities for repatriation of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Mar 03: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan changed the portfolios of minister for information Shaukat Yousafzai and adviser to the chief minister on merged districts Ajmal Wazir.

Mar 03: The Gilgit-Baltistan government announced to keep the Khunjerab Pass closed for an indefinite period over coronavirus threats.

Mar 03: Former director general (DG) of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regularity Authority (Pemra), Haji Ahmed Malik, passed away.

Mar 04: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan approved the name of the Lahore High Court (LHC) judge Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi for elevation to the Supreme Court.

Mar 04: The US State Department honoured Pakistani human rights activist and lawyer Jalila Haider among others with its International Women of Courage Award for the year 2020.

Mar 04: The World Bank approved a \$300-million financial package for human development in Pakistan, including a loan of \$200 million to improve social and health indicators in about a dozen poorest districts of



Punjab.

Mar 04: The Senate passed with amendments the Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Bill, 2019, aimed at deterring violence against children.

Mar 04: Prime Minister Imran Khan approved establishment of 10 special economic zones (SEZs) in the four provinces and privatisation of 33 state entities/lands during current fiscal year. Five of the 10 SEZs will be established in Punjab (Bhalwal, Bahawalpur, Rahim Yar Khan, Vehari and Allama Iqbal SEZ), two each in Sindh (Naushahro Feroze and Bhulari) and Balochistan (Bostan and Hub) and one in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Rashakai).

Mar 05: Pakistan ranked 76th out of 100 countries in the 2020 Inclusive Internet Index, conducted by the UK-based The Economist Intelligence Unit. The index assesses on four key categories - availability, affordability, relevance and readiness - and 56 indicators.

Mar 05: The federal government appointed Sadia Khan as Commissioner Securities and Exchange

2,302 points (6.41 per cent) — the biggest single day decline in 10 years. A massive sum of Rs 184 billion was wiped off the market capitalisation during the day.

Mar 09: Board of Investment (BoI) chairman Zubair Gilani resigned from his office.

Mar 10: The federal cabinet approved privatisation of 46 entities, abolishment of four departments and hand over of four others to the provincial governments.

Mar 10: The Lahore High Court ruled that the financial institutions are not required to obtain a decree from banking court to sell mortgaged properties for recovering defaulted loans.

Mar 10: The Sindh police launched an indigenously-developed mobile phone application that would help develop database of crimes against children, including registration of cases, progress on their investigations and police performance in the area.

Mar 11: A Pakistan Air Force F-16 aircraft crashed in Shakarparian — the federal capital's urban wilderness — while participating in rehearsal for the coming Pakistan Day parade. The pilot of the aircraft, Wing Commander Nouman Akram, the Officer Commanding of PAF Base Mushaf stationed 9 Squadron, was martyred in the crash.

Mar 12: Pakistani filmmaker Shehzad Hameed won the Outstanding Achievement Award for his film, *Enemy Within: Caught in the Crossfire*, at the Tagore International Film Festival (TIFF) 2020.

Mar 12: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) arrested Jang group editor-in-chief Mir Shakil-ur-Rahman in a 34-year-old case related to 54-kanal land he allegedly acquired "illegally" in the tenure

of then chief minister of Punjab Nawaz Sharif.

Mar 12: The Supreme Court directed the Pakistan Railways to revive the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) within six months.

Mar 12: The Punjab cabinet declared medical emergency across the province to ensure maximum measures to control the spread of coronavirus.

Mar 13: South Asia Partnership (SAP) and Women Action Forum (WAF) launched 'Democracy and Empowered Women' (Jazba Programme).

Mar 13: Telenor Pakistan became the third telecom company to successfully test 5G.

Mar 14: Former federal minister, veteran politician and a pioneer member of the Pakistan People's Party Dr Syed Mubashir Hassan died at 98.

Mar 15: Ghazanfar Mehmood won the 59th National Amateur Championship title.

Mar 15: Former KP governor Lt-Gen retired Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah died.



Commission of Pakistan for a period of three years.

Mar 05: Punjab government removed Cane Commissioner Wajid Ali Shah, while Member Revenue Board Nadeem Abbas Bhango was ordered to take charge.

Mar 06: Gen KM Arif (retd), former Vice Chief of the Army Staff, died.

Mar 06: The trendsetting comedian from Punjab, Amanullah, who ruled commercial theatre for almost three decades, passed away. He was 70.

Mar 06: The International Trade (INTA) Committee of EU Parliament extended the Generalised System of Preferences-Plus (GSP-Plus) status for Pakistan, enabling the country to continue to enjoy preferential duties on exports for the next two years.

Mar 09: Prime Minister Imran Khan inaugurated the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Under-21 Games at the Peshawar Sports Complex.

Mar 09: Bloodbath was witnessed at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX). Within just seven minutes of the start of trading, the benchmark KSE-100 index caved in by

INTERNATIONAL

Feb 16: South Korea's Park In-bee won the Australian Open Golf tournament.

Feb 16: Sudan authorities pledge to transfer ex-president Omar al-Bashir to The Hague-based International Criminal Court.

Bashir, who was deposed in April 2019 following mass protests, has for the past decade flouted ICC arrest warrants on charges of genocide and war crimes in the ravaged Darfur region of western Sudan.

Feb 16: The Munich Security Conference concluded in Munich, Germany where 30 heads of states and foreign ministers and ministers of defence participated from nearly 70 countries. The theme for this year's conference was "Westlessness".

Feb 16: The two-day Global Women's Forum opened in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, with the theme "The Power of Influence." While speaking at the event, Ivanka Trump lauded the Mideast countries, including close US allies Saudi Arabia and the UAE, for embarking on "significant reforms" to advance women's rights.

Feb 16: England beat South Africa in a high-scoring third and final Twenty20 International to clinch the series.

Feb 17: The UAE launched its first floating solar power plant in Abu Dhabi. Located off Nurai Island, the



floating solar panels will provide an additional 80 kilowatts of solar power energy to the nearby Zaya Nurai resort.

Feb 17: An Israeli aircraft flew through Sudanese airspace for the first time, in what Prime Minister Benjamin called another example of warming ties with formally hostile states. Israel remains technically at war with Sudan, which supported hardline Islamists — including, for a period, Al-Qaeda — during the rule of president Omar al-Bashir.

Feb 17: The UAE issued a licence for a reactor at its Barakah nuclear power plant, the first in the Arab world.

Feb 17: South Africa's last apartheid-era president, F. W. De Klerk, apologised and withdrew a controversial statement that apartheid was not a crime against humanity.

Feb 17: European Union foreign ministers agreed to a naval operation to enforce an arms embargo on war-torn Libya.

Feb 17: Indian officials denied a British lawmaker,

Debbie Abrahams, entry after she landed at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport. A Labour Party MP, Abrahams chairs a parliamentary group focused on occupied Kashmir.

Feb 18: Dr Ashraf Ghani secured a second term as president of Afghanistan, according to final results of the Sept. 28, 2019 election.

Feb 18: Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton and football superstar Lionel Messi shared this year's Laureus sportsman of the year award. This was the first time a footballer won the award and also the first occasion in the event's 20-year history when the jury reached a tied decision.

Feb 18: A Turkish court acquitted leading businessman and rights defender Osman Kavala in a highly controversial trial over the anti-government "Gezi Park" protests of 2013.

Feb 19: The world is failing to protect children from the health dangers posed by climate change and poor diet, a landmark UN report "A Future for the World's Children?" said, warning that every child is under "immediate threat". The report was prepared by a Commission of over 40 child and adolescent health experts from around the world. The Commission was convened by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and The Lancet.

Feb 19: Former South Korean president Lee Myung-bak was taken to prison to begin a 17-year term for bribery and embezzlement after losing an appeal against a lighter sentence.

Feb 19: Frenchman Martin Fourcade won his 11th world biathlon title, equalling the record haul of individual golds held by Norway legend Ole-Einar Bjoerndalen.

Feb 20: A Kashmiri reporter Ahmer Khan was named the winner of the 2019 Agence France-Presse Kate Webb Prize for his coverage on the ground in India-held Kashmir during India's lockdown of the disputed region.

About Kate Webb Prize

The Kate Webb Prize, with a 3,000 euro (\$3,400) purse, honours journalists working in perilous or difficult conditions in Asia. It is named after a crusading AFP reporter Kate Webb who died in 2007 at the age of 64, after a career covering the world's troublespots. Born in New Zealand, Ms Webb earned a reputation as a fearless reporter while covering wars and other historic events in Asia during a career spanning four decades. She made her name in Vietnam and also worked in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, India, South Korea and the Middle East.

The award is administered by AFP and the Webb family. It was first awarded in 2008.

Feb 20: Sweden created two \$1 million prizes for solutions to feed billions of people, as climate change threatens the world's food supply and a growing population requires sustainable food systems. Two Food Planet Prizes will be awarded annually, one to "an existing scalable solution for sustainable foods", the second for "innovative initiatives that could transform

the global food sector."

Feb 20: Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq issued a decree removing the name of his predecessor from the national anthem.

Feb 20: Ethiopia's government assumed custody of a priceless 18th-century crown — which features images of Christ and the Twelve Apostles — that a former refugee had kept hidden in his apartment in the Netherlands for two decades.

Feb 20: France and Germany signed a 150 million euro (\$161.84 million) deal to develop a prototype of the next generation fighter jet, a project seen as vital for Europe to defend itself without relying on allies in an increasingly uncertain world.

Feb 20: US President Donald Trump named Richard Grenell as acting director of national intelligence, a temporary status which means he will not face a Senate confirmation process unless Trump puts him forward for a permanent position.

Feb 20: Veteran New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor achieved a unique career milestone in the opening Test against India when he became the first cricketer to play 100 internationals in all three formats of the game.

Feb 21: Lisel Mueller, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, died. She was 96.

Feb 21: A stridently anti-military Thai party, The Future Forward Party (FFP), fronted by the charismatic auto-parts scion **T h a n a t h o r n Juangroongruangkit**, was dissolved and its key members banned from politics for a decade over a \$6 million loan by its billionaire founder.

Feb 21: The Ethiopian runner Ababel Yeshaneh set a world record in the women's half marathon by winning the Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon in 1 hour, 4 minutes, 31 seconds, knocking 20 seconds off the previous record set by Joyciline Jepkosgei in Valencia in 2017.

Feb 21: FATF placed Iran on its blacklist after it failed to comply with international anti-terrorism financing norms.

Feb 21: General election was held in Iran.

Feb 22: Jens Nygaard Knudsen, who designed the iconic Lego minifigure with interchangeable legs and torsos, died of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Feb 22: Finance ministers and central bank governors from G20 nations met in Riyadh where they weighed the potential impact of the coronavirus epidemic on the world economy.

Feb 22: The Dalai Lama marked the 80th anniversary of his enthronement as the spiritual leader of Tibet.

Feb 22: South Sudan rebel leader Riek Machar was sworn-in as his country's first vice president. It is the third time that bitter foes Machar and President Salva Kiir will attempt to rule together.

Feb 22: French state-owned energy giant EDF began shutting down the country's oldest nuclear power plant after 43 years in operation when it disconnected

one of two reactors at Fessenheim, along the Rhine near France's eastern border with Germany and Switzerland.

Feb 22: An Egyptian court acquitted two sons of former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak and six others in a case known in the Egyptian media as stock exchange manipulation.

Feb 23: Thich Quang Do, a dissident Vietnamese Buddhist monk who has effectively been under house arrest since 2003 and was nominated multiple times for the Nobel Peace Prize, died aged 93.

Feb 23: Saudi Arabia introduced one-year multiple entry visit visas for Pakistanis and all other applicants who have a valid UK, US or Schengen visa stamped on their passports. The new multiple-visa will be valid for one year and the visitors will also be allowed to perform Umrah. However, they are not allowed to perform Haj.

Feb 23: Polish mountaineer Denis Urubko quit climbing after scaling all 14 peaks above 8,000 metres 23 times and without ever getting frostbitten.

Feb 23: Lee Suet Fern, the daughter-in-law of Singapore's founding father Lee Kuan Yew was found guilty by a disciplinary tribunal of professional

misconduct over her involvement in preparing his will, which is at heart of a feud between the city-state's first family.

Feb 23: Pope Francis warned against "inequitable solutions" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, saying they would only be a prelude to new crises.

Feb 23: Iran reported its lowest turnout in a general election since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, after a poll in which half of the candidates were

barred.

Feb 24: US fourth seed Reilly Opelka captured the ATP Delray Beach Open title, outlasting Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka in the championship match.

Feb 24: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad submitted a letter of resignation to the country's king.

Feb 24: China decided to postpone its annual parliament session for the first time since the Cultural Revolution, as the country battles the coronavirus outbreak.

Feb 24: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened the UN Human Rights Council's main annual session in Geneva, Switzerland where he launched a "call to action" against rising attacks on human rights, highlighting the persecution of minorities and "alarming levels of femicide".

Feb 24: US President Donald Trump reached India on an official visit, becoming the seventh US President to land on the Indian soil since December 1959, when one of his predecessors, Dwight Eisenhower, was greeted with a 21-gun salute at New Delhi.

Feb 24: Katherine Johnson, a ground-breaking black



Nasa mathematician whose life was portrayed in the movie "Hidden Figures," died aged 101. Johnson's calculations helped put the first man on the Moon in 1969, but she was little known until the Oscar-nominated 2016 movie that told the stories of three black women who worked at Nasa.

Feb 25: The prime minister of East Timor resigned from his office.

Feb 25: The last marshal of the Soviet Union, Dmitry Yazov, who was a key player in the political turmoil that precipitated the collapse of the USSR, died aged 95. Yazov, who was then the Soviet Union's highest ranking military official, played a central role in the 1991 attempted coup against Mikhail Gorbachev and in the bloody repression of pro-independence uprisings in Lithuania.

Feb 25: The Assembly of the Bihar state of India passed a resolution to not implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state. The assembly also passed a resolution to implement the National Population Register (NPR) in its 2010 format, with an amendment.

Feb 25: US President Donald Trump once again offered to mediate on the Kashmir dispute, citing good relations with leaders on India and Pakistan.

Feb 25: American Airlines Group Inc signed a strategic partnership deal with Qatar Airways and to revive its codeshare agreement.

Feb 25: The World Health Organisation (WHO) urged the international community not to stigmatise people from the areas affected by the coronavirus epidemic.

Feb 25: A "doomsday vault" nestled deep in the Arctic received 60,000 new seed samples, including Prince Charles' cowslips and Cherokee sacred corn, increasing stocks of the world's agricultural bounty in case of global catastrophe.

Feb 25: Egypt's former president Hosni Mubarak, who ruled for three decades before he was ousted amid the Arab Spring protests in 2011, died at age 91.

Feb 25: Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe inside four days in the one-off Test.

Feb 25: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations announced to provide e-locust devices controlled by Global Positioning System (GPS) in the affected areas in order to support Pakistan to control the attack affecting crops across the country.

Feb 26: The Maldives hired prominent human rights lawyer Amal Clooney to represent it at the UN's highest court in seeking justice for Myanmar's persecuted Rohingya Muslims.

Feb 26: Germany's highest court ruled that a 2015 law banning professional assisted suicide was unconstitutional, saying in a landmark decision that people have "the right to a self-determined death".

Feb 26: Maria Sharapova, the Russian five-time Grand Slam champion who became one of the highest paid sportswomen in the world, announced her retirement at the age of 32.

Feb 27: Israel approved nearly 1,800 new homes in settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Feb 27: In a first, two commercial satellites pulled off the impressive manoeuvre of docking with each other, where one of them would service the other. If

successful, the mission would enable the Intelsat 901, to continue its job for five more years. The daring effort can usher a whole new industry to refurbish ailing satellites, consequently reducing the amount of space junk clogging the Earth's orbit.

Feb 27: Russia successfully test-launched its Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missile from a military vessel for the first time.

Feb 27: Earth has acquired a second "mini-moon" about the size of a car, according to astronomers who spotted the object circling our planet. The mass — roughly 1.9-3.5 metres (6-11 feet) in diameter — was observed by researchers Kacper Wierzbach and Teddy Pruyne at the NASA-funded Catalina Sky Survey in Arizona on the night of February 15.

Feb 27: Iraqi politicians failed to agree on a new government.

Feb 27: As the official death toll in four days of violence in Delhi climbed to 38, the Modi government transferred Delhi High Court's Justice S. Murlidhar to the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Feb 27: A US federal government commission noted that efforts were being made in India to disenfranchise Muslims while the government was failing in its duty to protect citizens. "The brutal and unchecked violence growing across Delhi cannot continue," said Anurima Bhargava, head of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

Feb 27: Britain's Court of Appeal ruled in favour of environmental campaigners who oppose the building of a third runway at London's Heathrow airport, Europe's busiest.

Feb 27: Australia defeated South Africa in the series-deciding third Twenty20 International.

Feb 27: Tunisia's new government consisting of Prime Minister Elyes Fakhfakh, thirty ministers and two secretaries of state was sworn in.

Feb 27: The world's nuclear watchdog IAEA gave its backing to Japanese plans to release contaminated water from the damaged Fukushima nuclear plant into the ocean.

Feb 27: The US and South Korean militaries postponed forthcoming joint exercises due to the coronavirus outbreak in the Asian country.

Feb 28: Chinese swimmer Sun Yang was banned for eight years after he broke anti-doping rules.

Feb 28: Freeman J. Dyson, a mathematical prodigy who left his mark on subatomic physics before turning to messier subjects like earth's environmental future and the morality of war, died. He was 96.



EXAM PACK

Feb 28: Panic over the spread of coronavirus severely hit global stock markets, setting the stage for what will be the worst week since the 2008 financial crisis.

Feb 28: Luxembourg became the first country in the world to offer a free public transport system.

Feb 28: Spanish public prosecutors filed the country's first lawsuit against the spread of 'fake news' which targets a woman who tweeted a video falsely claiming to show migrant children harassing a teacher in Spain.

Feb 29: The United States signed a landmark deal with the Taliban, laying out a timetable for a full troop withdrawal from Afghanistan within 14 months. Washington's chief negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban political chief Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar inked the accord in the Qatari capital of Doha.

Feb 29: Malaysia's little-known ex-interior minister, Muhyiddin Yassin, was elected the country's new prime minister.

Feb 29: Yumi Kajihara became the first Japanese woman to be crowned as a world track cycling champion.

Mar 01: Jack Welch, who led General Electric through two decades of extraordinary corporate prosperity and became the most influential business manager of his generation, died. He was 84.

Mar 01: Yemen's Houthi rebels captured Al-Hazm, capital of the northern province of Al-Jawf.

Mar 01: Slovakia's centre-right, anti-graft OLaNO opposition party won the country's general election.

Mar 01: The Vatican unsealed the archives of history's most contentious popes Pius XII.

Mar 01: World number two Rafael Nadal captured his first ATP Tour title of 2020, defeating unseeded Taylor Fritz in the final of the Mexico Open.

Mar 01: Parliamentary polls were held in Tajikistan, the first in the country's post-Soviet history without the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan.

Mar 01: Sri Lanka defeated West Indies in the third One-day International to win the series 3-0.

Mar 01: Ethiopian Birhanu Legese won the Tokyo Marathon for the second year in a row, racing to victory in two hours, four minutes and 15 seconds.

Mar 02: North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles, weeks after Pyongyang threatened to demonstrate a "new strategic weapon" and its deadline for Washington to offer sanctions relief expired.

Mar 02: Sri Lanka's eighth legislature ended as parliament was dissolved at the end of the four and half years of its five-year term.

Mar 02: Uruguay's new President Luis Lacalle Pou was sworn in to office.

Mar 03: The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet informed India of its application to be a third party in one petition against contentious citizenship law in the country's highest court.

Mar 04: Ukrainian lawmakers approved the resignation of Prime Minister Oleksiy Goncharuk.

Mar 04: Dublin-based Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara were awarded the Pritzker prize—the first time a female duo has scooped architecture's most prestigious award.

Mar 04: Results of elections in Israel were announced according to which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to secure a clear majority for a right-

GK Tidbits

1. Heiko Maas is the Foreign Minister of: **Germany**
2. The swimmer who has won the most number of medals at the Olympics for Germany is: **Roland Matthes (4G, 2S, 2B)**
3. Nelson Mandela won the Nobel Peace Prize in: **1993**
4. The Khisar dam is located in Balochistan's district of: **Nushki**
5. Sri Lanka posted their lowest total of 71 in Test cricket against: **Pakistan (in 1994)**
6. Lee Myung-bak was the President of South Korea from 2008 to: **2013**
7. Addis Ababa is the capital of: **Ethiopia**
8. The current Prime Minister of Ethiopia is: **Abiy Ahmed**
9. The American President Richard Nixon historic embarked on a historic visit to China in: **1972**
10. When Richard Nixon visited China, the host country's prime minister was: **Chou En-lai**
11. Bronze is an alloy consisting primarily of Copper and: **Tin**
12. A modulator-demodulator is a hardware device better known as: **Modem**
13. The art and practice of garden cultivation and management is called: **Horticulture**
14. A temperature reading of -459.67 degrees Fahrenheit or -273.15 degrees Celsius, is known as: **Absolute zero (zero Kelvin)**
15. Three nautical miles at sea is also called: **A league**
16. The name for the unit of measurement of power that is roughly equal to 746 watts is: **Horsepower**
17. The number of furlongs in one mile is: **Eight**
18. In welding terminology, the letters MIG stand for: **Metal inert gas**

19. The atmospheric temperature at which water vapour begins to condense and form dew is called: **Dew point**
20. The two players that have appeared in the most number of cricket World Cups are: **Javed Miandad and Sachin Tendulkar (6 each)**
21. The first official meeting between British and Soviet prime ministers was held in: **1959**
22. Harold Macmillan was the prime minister of: **Great Britain**
23. The first Arab nation to hold the G20 presidency is: **Saudi Arabia**
24. Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer married in: **1981**
25. The British tennis player who has won the most matches in US Open is: **Andy Murray (44)**
26. FAO representative in Pakistan is: **Mina Dowlatchahi**
27. Pakistan's current Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research is: **Makhdoom Khusr-o Bakhtiar**
28. General Ziaul Haq died in a C-130 plane crash on: **Aug. 17, 1988.**
29. The Kuwaiti capital was liberated from the Iraqi occupation by the Gulf War Allies in: **1991**
30. The number of countries that have, to date, won the hockey world cup is: **5**
31. The IMF Mission Chief for Pakistan is: **Ernesto Ramirez Rigo**
32. Kais Saied is the president of: **Tunisia**
33. The Swedish prime minister, Olof Palme, was assassinated in: **1986**
34. The Great Red Spot is a gigantic storm located on a planet in our solar system. It is: **Jupiter**
35. When there are two full moons in the same month, the second one is called: **Blue moon**

EXAM PACK

wing bloc in parliament.

Mar 05: Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged India to "confront extremist Hindus" and "stop the massacre of Muslims".

Mar 06: Malaysia's anti-corruption chief, who had been investigating scandal-hit state fund 1MDB, resigned.

Mar 06: Iman Yassin Khatib, a female Muslim lawmaker from Israel's Arab minority, won a place on the Joint List coalition's slate of 15 seats in the 120-member Knesset.

Mar 06: Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe in third One-day International to complete a 3-0 sweep in series.

Mar 06: West Indies defeated Sri Lanka to seal the two-match Twenty20 series.

Mar 07: Saudi Arabia detained three senior princes including Prince Ahmed bin Abdulaziz, the younger brother of King Salman, and Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, the king's nephew, for allegedly planning a coup.

Mar 07: Saudi Arabia reopened the area around the sacred Kaaba in the Grand Mosque, reversing one of a series of measures introduced to combat the coronavirus outbreak.

Mar 07: The influential jazz pianist McCoy Tyner, known for his work with the John Coltrane quartet, died. He was 81.

Mar 07: US President Donald Trump announced that Mark Meadows would be his new chief of staff.

Mar 08: The United States and Russia agreed to work together to ensure that the international community does not accept or support the restoration of the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan".

Mar 08: Afghanistan beat Ireland to claim an unassailable 2-0 series lead in the second Twenty20

international.

Mar 08: Australia crushed India to win a record-extending fifth Women's Twenty20 World Cup at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Mar 09: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and his rival Abdullah Abdullah simultaneously conducted oath taking ceremonies for the new President of Afghanistan.

Mar 10: The United States began withdrawing troops from Afghanistan, taking a step forward on its peace deal with the Taliban.

Mar 10: Russian President Vladimir Putin opened the door to constitutional changes that would allow him to remain in power until 2036.

Mar 10: The Spanish parliament rejected for the second time in two years a request by several parties to open an investigation into the business activities of former King Juan Carlos.

Mar 10: Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani signed a decree to facilitate the release of some Taliban prisoners in Afghan jails.

Mar 10: The UN Security Council unanimously approved a United States resolution over the recent deal between Washington and the Afghan Taliban, a rare endorsement of an agreement with a militant group.

Mar 10: King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands apologised for his country's aggression during its colonial rule of Indonesia and formally recognised the Southeast Asian country's independence date.

Mar 10: India's Mukesh Ambani lost his crown as Asia's richest person after the latest rout across global markets wiped almost \$6 billion off his fortune.

Mar 11: The WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

GK Tidbits

36. On June 16, 1963, the Soviet cosmonaut that became the first woman in space was: **Valentina Tereshkova**

37. The term used for the speed that a rocket needs to be travelling to break free of Earth's gravity is: **Escape velocity**

38. Ganymede, the largest moon in our solar system, belongs to: **Jupiter**

39. The planet that has an axis tilted by 98 degrees is: **Uranus**

40. Olympus Mons is a large volcanic mountain on: **Mars**

41. Halley's Comet will be visible from Earth in: **2061**

42. The planet that has the most volcanoes is: **Venus**

43. Pluto was reclassified from a planet to a dwarf planet in: **2006**

44. Pierre Trudeau was the Prime Minister of: **Canada**

45. The capital of Canada is: **Ottawa**

46. Bangladesh's highest score in T20Is is: **190 against Ireland**

47. In 1954, The United States tested its hydrogen bomb in the Pacific archipelago of: **Bikini**

48. Bikini is a part of: **Marshall Islands**

49. The record for sailing solo around the world in the least number of days is held by: **Francois Gabart (42 days and 16 hours)**

50. The Pakistani batsman who has hit the most number of fours in ODI cricket is: **Inzamamul Haq (971)**

51. Renowned writer, women's rights activist and essayist, Elif Shafak, is from: **Turkey**

52. The current men's 100m world champion in sprinting is: **Justin Gaitlin**

53. OIC secretary general's special envoy on Jammu and Kashmir is: **Yousef M. Al Dobeay**

54. Accra is the capital of: **Ghana**

55. Ghana gained independence in: **1957**

56. Ghana's first prime minister was: **Dr Kwame Nkrumah**

57. The first Governor-General of Ghana was: **Sir Charles Arden-Clarke**

58. The number of medals Pakistani athletes have won at summer Olympics is: **8**

59. IRNA is the official news agency of: **Iran**

60. Revered Arab singer Umm Kulthum belonged to: **Egypt**

61. Umm Kulthum was affectionately known in Egypt as: **"El Sett" ("The Lady")**

62. Umm Kulthum was born at the end of the 19th century and died in: **1975**

63. China won its first Olympic medal in: **1984**

64. The Highest Court in the Land is a basketball court above the: **US Supreme Court building**

65. A referendum on the future of the Northern Ireland—whether to leave or remain within the United Kingdom—was held in: **1973**

66. The player who won 470 consecutive tennis matches was: **Esther Vergeer**

67. The boxer that holds the record for youngest professional debut is: **Alberto (Baby) Arizmendi**

68. Abdalla Hamdok is the prime minister of: **Sudan**

69. The capital of Sudan is: **Khartoum**

70. Sir Alexander Fleming - the man who first discovered the life-saving drug penicillin - died in: **1955**

EXAM PACK

announced that COVID-19 can be characterised as a pandemic.

Mar 11: Disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein was sentenced to 23 years in prison for rape and sexual assault.

Mar 11: Bangladesh thrashed Zimbabwe in the second Twenty20 International to clinch the two-match series 2-0.

Mar 12: French chef Michel Roux, widely acknowledged as helping kickstart modern restaurant dining in Britain with "Le Gavroche" in London, died at the age of 78.

Mar 13: Nepal barred climbers from all mountains, including Everest, because of the coronavirus pandemic, in a major blow to its tourism industry. The Himalayan country earns US\$4.4 million a year from climbing permits.

Mar 13: Greece swore in Katerina Sakellaropoulou, a 63-year-old senior judge, the first woman president in its history.

Mar 13: US Soccer president Carlos Cordeiro resigned.

Mar 13: Dana Zatopkova, the 1952 Olympic javelin champion and wife of four-time Olympic running champion Emil Zatopek, died at the age of 97.

Mar 13: India's cabinet approved a rescue plan for Yes Bank under which the State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, would take a 49% stake in Yes Bank.

Mar 13: US President Donald Trump declared a national emergency to combine America's public and private resources to fight coronavirus and also launched a new Google site to screen millions of Americans.

Mar 13: Former US Army soldier and WikiLeaks source



Chelsea Manning was released from prison on a judge's order after being held since May for refusing to testify in an ongoing US investigation of WikiLeaks.

Mar 13: Indian authorities released Farooq Abdullah, an influential Kashmiri lawmaker who had been held for seven months after New Delhi stripped India-held Jammu and Kashmir of its semi-autonomy and detained thousands of politicians and activists.

Mar 14: Microsoft announced that co-founder Bill Gates has left its board of directors to devote more time to philanthropy.

Mar 14: Hong Kong democracy activist Chan Kin-man walked free from prison.

Mar 15: Israel's president gave opposition leader Benny Gantz the first opportunity to form a new government. 🇮🇱

GK Tidbits

71. For many years, Sir Alexander was Professor of Bacteriology in: **University of London**

72. The first notable discovery by Sir Alexander Fleming was: **Lysozyme in 1922**

73. A naturally-occurring antibacterial substance, found in tears and other body fluids, is: **Lysozyme**

74. Mikhail Gorbachev took over as Soviet leader in: **1985**

75. Gorbachev succeeded: **Konstantin Chernenko**

76. The youngest man to take over as general secretary of the Soviet communist party is: **Mikhail Gorbachev**

77. The nation that spends time on reading more than any country on Earth is: **India**

78. The record for most consecutive Wimbledon titles is held by: **Martina Navratilova**

79. The sport that uses a broom is: **Curling**

80. Before he became president, Abraham Lincoln was wrestling champion of his country in: **Illinois**

81. The Eiffel Tower leans slightly toward the shade on sunny days. :

82. Takht Hazara is the native village of renowned folklore character: **Ranjha**

83. The telescope that was used for the first time to give commands to a rocket in space was: **The Jodrell Bank**

84. The highest wicket-taker spinner for South Africa is: **Hugh Tayfield (170)**

85. The only team that has play in every football World cup is:

Brazil

86. The first woman to run a marathon in less than 2½ hours was: **Grete Waitz**

87. The winner of the first Twenty20 Women's World Cup was: **England**

88. The Swine flu (H1N1) pandemic hit the world in: **2009-10**

89. 7th NFC Award was announced in: **2010**

90. The color of a star indicates its: **Temperature**

91. The metal that is mostly used for filaments of electric bulbs is: **Tungsten**

92. The element having the symbol W, atomic number 74, and atomic weight 183.85 is: **Tungsten**

93. The EU currency "Euro" was founded under the treaty of: **Maastricht**

94. The first person to reach the North Pole was: **Robert Edwin Peary**

95. Alexander the Great invaded India in: **326 BC**

96. Quito is the capital of: **Ecuador**

97. The United Nations adopted first resolution on Coronavirus on: **April 3, 2020**

98. The total number of British overseas territories is: **14**

99. Bohai Sea is coterminous with: **Yellow sea**

100. The Helium atoms that have lost two electrons are called: **Alpha rays**



2nd CSS

Online
Evening
Batch

From
17th April
2020

World Times Institute
Distance Learning Department

Registration Open
0302-5556803, 0302-5556806
0302-5556807, 0300-4242363